

THE NEWS

C plan to monitor i-Labour bias un-up to election

His union has set up a monitoring programme that would involve several thousand rank-and-file trade unionists watching television, listening to the radio and noting newspaper coverage. They would then complete a questionnaire that would be fed into a computer to produce a "profile of bias" in the media.

Mr Sapper said last night: "I am working on a viable system of people's monitoring on a continuing basis that will challenge the professionals imposing their view on people through television, radio and the press."

The Labour movement's volunteers would be trained to look at and receive news in a way that could be reported back to a central collection point for computer analysis: "to present a profile of bias or otherwise."

The Sapper formula is not likely to be taken up until next month's meeting of the media group, but it is an underlying aim of the campaign designed to identify media bias.

The group was set up four months ago in response to long-standing trade union criticism of the way industrial relations and news of the wider Labour movement are communicated to the public.

Society wants legal aid more widely available

Society proposes that the contributory principle should be radically altered.

It argues that the upper and lower limits of legal aid must be substantially increased and at the same time the fraction of the disposable income above the lower limit required by way of contribution should be reduced.

If the free legal aid limits were increased to £1,200 and the upper limit to £2,850 it is estimated that the increased cost would be under £3m if the fraction of disposable income taken as a contribution remained at one third and would be about £3.3m if the fraction was reduced to one quarter.

Mr David Edwards, secretary of the Law Society's legal aid department, said: "Only people with an income just above supplementary benefit level are eligible for free legal aid. The average manual worker and others in the middle income group are denied access to justice."

Government backing for spastics campaign

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Mr Morris, minister with special responsibility for the disabled, promised yesterday that the Government would give all possible backing to the "save a baby" campaign organized by the Spastics Society, which it is hoped, will prevent thousands of babies from being born with needless handicaps.

The campaign will be launched with a rally in Trafalgar Square on St George's Day, April 23.

Yesterday, at a reception at the House of Commons, MPs were told that, of six spastic babies born every day, at least two could have been born undamaged, given proper prenatal and postnatal care.

Mr Morris promised immediate talks between his department and the society to see how the Government could help. He suggested priority for commercial or other agencies, particularly in the inner cities, where the trouble was most serious among the large immigrant communities and with single-parent families.

The Spastics Society is organizing medical seminars, advising campaigns and films to publicize the need for prenatal and immediate postnatal care.

The society is urging ministers to abandon proposed cuts in maternity services and to follow France's example in establishing chairs of obstetrics and neonatal medicine; in requiring inoculation of all girls against German measles; introducing incentive payments to pregnant women who attend for antenatal care; and to establishing units in teaching hospitals to provide intensive care for newborn babies at risk.

Mr James Lorrig, director of the society, pointed out that there was sufficient knowledge now to reduce the numbers of brain-damaged babies, but we lacked the muscle to implement that knowledge nationally.

Perinatal mortality in Britain was 17.7 a thousand births, compared with 11.3 in Sweden, but there was wide variation within Britain. Oxford's mortality rate was 10.3; Wolverhampton's 23.50.

Abduction charge

Barry John Whitfield, aged 29, a married man, of Rosey Walk, Withywood, Bristol, was remanded in custody by Bristol magistrates yesterday, charged with taking a girl of 14 out of the possession of her father on January 24.



Ann Pancha, aged eight, of Greenwich, one of more than 70 London children taking part in a half-term glass-etching class at the Royal Maritime Museum, Greenwich, yesterday.

Deputizing 'should be run by NHS'

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

Deputizing services used by family doctors when they are away from their practices should be run by the National Health Service, not by commercial or other agencies, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs said yesterday.

The union, of which Mr Clive Jenkins is general secretary, incorporated the old Medical Practitioners' Union some years ago. It is to put its scheme to the Department of Health and Social Security next week.

The doctors' section of the union has been considering the move since deputizing services were debated at the union conference last year.

Deputizing services have been criticized for some time. It is contended that patients suffer by the use of stand-ins for their usual doctors.

The Department of Health is preparing a code of practice, in conjunction with doctors, to ensure that services maintain adequate standards and efficiency.

British Rail extends cheap travel for older children

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

Snudeot Railcards, giving half-price travel on many trains, will be available down to the age of 14 from the end of this month instead of the present minimum age of 18. But they will not be available for season tickets for schoolchildren, or will they be available for journeys costing less than £1.50 for singles and cheap day returns, or £3 for period returns.

There was a storm of protest last year when British Rail withdrew the cheap season ticket for schoolchildren so that parents had to pay full fare for 14 to 17-year-olds, while students of 18 and over had the benefit of the half-price Railcard, which costs £7 a year.

British Rail said: "The new Railcard is designed to increase leisure journeys by students, especially at weekends, and school and college holidays. We withdrew the cheap season ticket facility last year, for over 18s as well, because it was costing us money."

"About 98 per cent of season tickets for schoolchildren are bought by local authorities, which have a statutory obligation to pay for children travelling more than three miles to school."

Four American designs have been accepted by the Post Office for discreet public trials on free loan from the suppliers.

One folding-door kiosk has been sited in Charing Cross Road, London, opposite the Garrick Theatre, painted in red, and another has been placed near the City Information Bureau in St Paul's Churchyard. The St Paul's kiosk has no door and is painted dark blue. First results are said to be encouraging.

Federal telephones with hoods are being assessed for use in railway stations, shopping precincts and other public centres.

Aluminium call boxes on trial

By Our Industrial Editor

The days of Britain's distinctive public telephone kiosks may be numbered. Trials are under way of American and Continental-type public call boxes, said to be cheaper to install and likely to discourage vandalism.

Plans provide for kiosks made from aluminium and to be brightly lit with fluorescent lamps so that occupants can be clearly seen, a deterrent to vandals. Also proposed are open "walk up" public telephones, protected only by square hoods.

The Post Office has more than 60,000 telephone kiosks of pre-war design still in use, and most of the remaining 17,000 are of a more modern design approved 12 years ago.

Those who were dependent on grant did not receive any of the money made available; councils had diverted it elsewhere.

Later he would give guidance on the occasions that had occurred, Mr Rodgers told the standing committee considering the Transport Bill, which proposes changes in the law on transport and road traffic.

Mr Roger Moore, Conservative MP for Faversham, said Mr Rodgers was seeking to blame Conservative councils for the difficulties of bus services.

Councils accused over use of bus grants

By Our Parliamentary Staff

Some county councils had deliberately decided not to spend money they received under false pretences on bus services within their areas, Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday.

Those councils, he said, received money as a result of the transport policies and programme submitted to the Government based on assumptions on how it was to be spent, which included road building, maintenance and grants to bus operators. But some bus opera-

tors who were dependent on grant did not receive any of the money made available; councils had diverted it elsewhere.

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But some bus opera-

Big rise in complaints on package hotels

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Although fewer people took package holidays abroad last year there was a sharp increase in the number of complaints about the standards of foreign hotel accommodation.

An Office of Fair Trading survey into the working of the Association of British Travel Agents' code of practice showed that complaints about accommodation made to the association increased from 293 in April to October, 1975, the year the code was introduced, to 756 in the same period last year.

Complaints about surcharges and late cancellations had decreased since 1975, and the overall total of complaints had been reduced from 4,206 to 2,441.

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, said he was pleased to find that most complaints were being dealt with speedily and fairly, but he was concerned that those about hotel accommodation should be increasing.

Mr Borrie said he had called on the association to bring into line 10 tour operators who, in defiance of the code of practice, still stipulate unreasonable booking conditions in 1978 summer brochures.

The conditions to which Mr Borrie objected sought to exclude liability for delay, disappointment, damage, and even injury or death, or were intended to allow companies to impose last-minute surcharges.

Computer lights fail at ballet premiere

By John Percival

The gala premiere of Kenneth Macmillan's ballet *Mousetrap* at Covent Garden last night led to a given with improvised lighting because of the failure of the new computer-controlled switchboard.

Announcing this before the performance to an audience that included Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, Mr John Tooley, general administrator of the Royal Opera House, remarked that it was ironic that it should happen on the occasion of the first production to be sponsored by a computer company.

A substantial contribution towards the cost of *Mousetrap* was made by IBM (United Kingdom) Ltd, but Mr Tooley made clear that IBM was not responsible for the faulty installation.

'State must adapt to changing life-styles'

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

The social security system is ill attuned to the changing social roles of the family, Professor David Donnison, chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, said yesterday.

It forces married men who return to college to achieve better qualifications to go back to work when their wives can no longer earn. It refuses to allow married women to claim; even when they have been the family breadwinner for years. The department administering benefits refuses to give able women civil servants equal opportunities for promotion.

Giving the Fawcett Lecture at Bedford College, London University, yesterday, Professor Donnison said the deep-rooted

changes brought about by the second wave of feminism since the 1950s still had some way to go.

"The women's liberation movement is spreading through the urban industrial societies, not as a transient fashion but as a response to changes in the industrial structure and the labour markets of all these countries", he said.

Already, in Britain, the much better job opportunities for women had increased home ownership and led to the decline of the husband as the main breadwinner. But the changes affected life-styles and human relationships, which were likely to go much farther and to which the state would have to adapt.

Yet in January, 1977, women formed only 7 per cent of the principal and higher Civil

Service grades working in the Department of Health and Social Security, whose staff was mainly female. At the bottom of the scale 83 per cent of clerical assistants were women, as were 71 per cent of clerical officers. Yet the women were among the ablest officials.

The main reason for the lack of women at the higher levels of this service is the loss of those who stop work to raise their own families and their failure to return later on, Professor Donnison said.

They were deterred from returning by the Civil Service rules about reinstatement and age bars on recruitment. "We have to liberate men as well as women from constraints imposed by arrangements that no longer accord with their chosen ways of life."

Tory Europe MPs upset Westminster colleagues

By Our Political Staff

Conservatives at Westminster were amazed to read in *The Times* yesterday that leading Conservatives in the European Parliament were aligning themselves with Mr Sillkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in opposing EEC pressures on British fishing limits to the extent of threatening to break up the Community.

Mr John Davies, Chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said he was convinced that there was no intention in the European Conservative delegation to suggest a break-up of the Community. "I do not know how they came to be thought of as such," he said.

It was unthinkable that the party should take action leading to the break-up of the Community over fish, Mr Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow, East, and a former member of the Conservative delegation to the European Parliament, said he could not believe that Mr Geoffrey Rippon, leader of the delegation, was prepared to campaign for the break-up of the Community and the creation of a trading arrangement between the EEC and the European Free Trade Association (Efta).

the grouping of nations that was operating before the United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland joined the Community. He said the difficulties over the fishing limits would never be allowed by Conservatives to become a cause for Britain's withdrawal from the Community.

Mr Neil Marten, MP, for Banbury and a leading campaigner against Britain's membership of the EEC, said last night that he was delighted that Mr Rippon should be prepared to support the plan put forward by him and a group of other anti-Market Conservatives in a booklet two months ago.

It was essential that the Conservatives in Europe should be seen to be standing up for Britain's interests. The proposals for a loose trading partnership, as opposed to a community that might lead to a federal system, were in line with what he had proposed in the booklet.

To keep Mrs Thatcher fully informed of the proposals he was sending her another copy of the booklet, he said.

Labour backbenchers took a cynical view. They saw the latest Tory moves in Europe as an electrifying gambit designed to "cash in" on popular sentiment in the United Kingdom.

Tax equality plea for men and women

The married man's tax allowance should be abolished in the interests of equality between male and female taxpayers, the National Council for Civil Liberties says today. Much of the £2,000m saved by the Exchequer should be spent on improving child benefits so that families do not lose.

The council accepts the proposal as the first step towards equality within the tax system, as suggested in the Equal Opportunities Commission discussion document *Income tax and sex discrimination*. The commission should launch an education campaign to win acceptance by men and women, the council says.

It suggests the slogan "Equal pay, equal tax" to emphasize inequalities that mean less pay after deductions for a married woman earning the same as her husband, because of his extra tax allowance.

Girl murder charge

Stanley Duffy Ogodo, aged 17, of Westbourne Park Road, Notting Hill, London, was charged yesterday with the murder of Carol Anne Green, of Sale, Greater Manchester, who was found stabbed to a London canal last week.

Power workers offered rise

The Electricity Council yesterday offered a pay rise to 27,000 white-collar engineers within the 10 per cent earnings guidelines, to operate from February 1.

The Engineers and Managers' Association will give its response when the two sides meet again on Friday. Today the Electricity Council resumes talks with union representing 90,000 electricity supply workers.

Leprosy vaccine progress

Scientists appear to be within sight of developing a vaccine for leprosy, a disease that afflicts about 15 million people and is becoming resistant to standard drug treatment.

The advances come from a World Health Organization special project at the Microbiological Research Establishment at Porton Down.

Studies have shown that a vaccine, prepared from bacteria taken from 40 armadillos that have the disease is effective in preventing leprosy in mice.

Provided the vaccine passes toxicity and other tests, the first human trials might begin in two or three years, according to Dr Richard Rees, who heads leprosy research at the National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill, London.

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HOME NEWS

13,000 more deaths than births last year

By David Nicholson-Lord

Further evidence of Britain's declining fertility emerged yesterday with the publication of provisional population estimates showing that last year deaths exceeded births for the second successive year.

The figures, which refer to England and Wales, also demonstrate that the gap is widening. Last year there were 567,000 births and 580,000 deaths, a difference of 13,000. In 1975-76 the difference was under 5,000.

Taken together with a 17,000 net loss through migration, and set against other minor changes, the result is the third successive annual decrease in the population, and the largest so far.

In mid-1977 the population of England and Wales was 49,119,000, compared with 49,142,000 in mid-1976. The loss of 23,000 amounts to 0.05 per cent of the total.

In England and Wales the fertility rate fell from 1.72 children a family in 1976 to 1.66 last year. However, the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, which published yesterday's estimates, expects that births will start rising again in 1981 and that the "replacement" rate of 2.1 children a family will be reached by about 1985.

Last year's provisional figures for live births represent the thirteenth year of a decline from the peak figure of 876,000 in 1964.

The estimates also point to the continuing trend towards top-beariness in the population, with its important implications for school places and health and social services. Between 1976 and 1977 there was a decrease of 175,000, or 5 per cent, in the 0-4 age group and a decline of 75,000 (2 per cent) in the 5-9 age group.

The estimates also show a reduction of 14,000 in the number of children of school age, between five and 16, a change of 0.1 per cent.

At the same time the number of people aged 65 and over increased by 90,000, or 1 per cent, over the figure for 1976. That is explained by the high fertility rates occurring just before the First World War.

Last year's figure for migration showed a net loss of 17,000, or 0.03 per cent, over the 1976 figure of 15,000.

Road casualties up

Road casualties of 348,000 last year were 3 per cent higher than in 1976, according to the Department of Transport figures issued yesterday. There were 6,630 road deaths, an increase of 1 per cent.

£7.3m increase in grant to Arts Council

By Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter

The Government has increased the Arts Council's grant-in-aid for 1978-79 by 17.5 per cent. An extra £7.3m, making a total of £49m, was announced in the Commons yesterday by Mrs. Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

She took the unusual step of giving the amount in reply to a question by Mrs. Renée Short.

Labour MP for Wolverhampton, North-East. Previously the figure has been in the Supply Estimates, which are usually published in March or April. But there has been concern about such late announcements because Arts Council clients have to budget well ahead.

Mr. Roy Shaw, secretary-general of the Arts Council, said the grant was generous in present circumstances. The percentage increase covered inflation and allowed for very

growth. The figure includes £600,000 for capital expenditure, being the arts (up by £100,000), and £484m for revenue purposes.

Mr. Shaw said the grant fell far short of the sum required to enable the council to meet all its obligations. "It will, however, enable us to strengthen the finances of some existing clients, leaving a margin for developments in regional arts associations and community arts, and the establishment of

English National Opera North at Leeds."

The timing of the announcement was six weeks earlier than last year, when the Arts Council was grateful for that but would have preferred to know before Christmas, as it had been led to expect. Estimates to be presented to Parliament will show how the council has done in its grants among England, Scotland and Wales.

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Revival of inner cities already affects new towns

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Evidence that the Government's new strategy of assisting inner-city revival may already be affecting the new towns came yesterday from Telford development corporation.

The corporation said the unusual step of publicising recent difficulties in obtaining industrial development certificates for two companies that wanted to move to Telford "from the South". It declined to name them because it did not want the information to be available to competitors.

Hitherto new towns have been under no restrictions in promoting their attractions and campaigning for investment. An official of the New Towns Association said yesterday that the potential conflict between fostering new-town growth and giving priority to areas of high unemployment had not so far been "a burning issue".

But, according to the corporation, it took a full delegation of all board members, together with Mr. Gerald Fowler, Labour MP for Telford, to persuade the Department of Industry to reverse one of its two earlier refusals.

The department said yesterday that its first criteria in considering an application for a certificate were whether a new factory could be located either in an assisted area, or in one of the new inner-city partnership areas. After that the new towns would have priority.

£250 damages for 'gay' group

The Campaign for Homosexual Equality in Manchester has been paid £250 damages by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which cancelled a booking for a discotheque the organization planned to hold last year.

The organization had alleged "anti-gay prejudice" and threatened legal action for breach of contract. The society agreed to pay the damages in an out-of-court settlement as an acknowledgment of the expenses incurred by the organization.

Judiciary 'should adapt blasphemy laws to meet today's needs'

By Annabel Ferriman

The law of blasphemy should be adapted by the judiciary to meet the needs of today, Mr. John Smyth, counsel for the Crown, told the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The court is hearing the appeal of *Gay News*, a newspaper for homosexuals, and Mr. Denis Lemon, its editor, who was convicted of blasphemous libel last year after publishing a poem about Christ. Mr. Lemon was given a nine-month suspended sentence and fined £500, and the paper was fined £1,000.

Mr. Smyth, who is instructed by the solicitors of Mrs. Mary Whitehouse, who brought the original prosecution, said the common law offence of blasphemy "should protect the feelings of sympathizers with Christian ideals about the things which they regard most sacred."

"If that is the purpose of the modern law, the test of the offence ought to be whether it passes the limits of decent controversy so as to outrage the feelings of Christian sympathizers."

The law of blasphemy was necessary today not just to deal with the poem, but to deal with the limits of decent controversy, but to deal with such cases as "the gentleman from Denmark who was going to make a film about the sex life of Jesus Christ."

Although it had been suggested that the *Gay News* poem should have been dealt with under the Obscene Publications Act, 1959, the law of blasphemous libel was more suitable because the most offensive aspect of the poem was not the acts it described but the fact that they involved Jesus Christ and the Resurrection, the most sacred event in the Christian religion.

Lord Justice Roskill, presiding, said Mr. Smyth's arguments about what the law should be avoided the important question of what the law actually was. Mr. Smyth was asking the judges to make new law, and some people did not think that that was their job.

Mr. Smyth replied: "The authorities on blasphemous libel are 55 years out of date. If they leave a grey area, then your Lordships have to define that area and turn it into black and white."

The judges would have to decide in particular whether intent was part of the law. Until the middle of the nineteenth century the intentions of those who were accused of blasphemy were considered irrelevant, he said.

At the end of that century the concept of intent was introduced to mitigate the harshness of the law. It was particularly relevant in cases of a philosophical nature,

where the authors clearly did not intend to blaspheme.

Earlier, Mr. John Mortimer, QC, for Mr. Lemon, said it had been argued that the poem was a serious contribution about the place of homosexuality in the Christian religion.

"It was expressed in imaginative, symbolic and carnal terms. If you look at only the carnal terms, it is unlikely that you will consider it a serious contribution, but if you look behind them to the deeper meaning, you might do so," he said.

The Bishop of Kingston upon Thames, Dr. Montefiore, had preached a sermon in which he considered whether Christ had been a homosexual, Mr. Mortimer said.

Mr. Justice Stocker, however, said that the two things could not be compared. "It is not the same thing as describing physical acts taking place at a crucial moment in the Christian religion, at the Resurrection, acts which for thousands of years were regarded as abominable by Christians and others as well."

Lord Justice Eveleigh said the objections to the poem were not based on the fact that the acts described were of a homosexual nature. If female sexual acts had been described, the same taking place at the same time it would have been just as bad.

The hearing continues tomorrow.

Post Office managers likely to merge their unions

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The 12,000 middle managers are likely to establish a new trade union structure in a move to better their bargaining position.

The Post Office Management Staff Association (Pomsa) is at present in talks with the Society of Civil and Public Servants. Draft terms will be put before the society's national executive next week and be considered by Pomsa's executive early next month.

The society is set to merge with the Society of Civil and Public Servants on January 1, next year, the society will establish separate executive committees for Post Office and Civil Service members. Each would be autonomous from the national executive on matters concerning pay and conditions.

The society, which represents middle-management grades, will hold a consultative hall of 3,000 Post Office members before submitting a report to the annual conference in May for a final decision. The Pomsa conference will decide later the same month.

Mr. Robert Cowley, deputy general secretary of Pomsa,

said it was union policy to seek the creation of a single union for all Post Office workers.

"We recognize that the time is not right for this," he said, "so we have sought to rationalize where we can and have discussed mergers with a number of unions in the industry."

The Society of Post Office Executives, which represents 23,000 engineering supervisory and middle-management grades, and which, like Pomsa, is affiliated to the TUC, has decided in favour of retaining its independence.

The Society for Civil and Public Servants opens pay talks with the Civil Service Department on Monday for its 97,000 members. The Civil and Public Servants Association, the biggest Civil Service union, is expected to begin pay talks next week. Both unions have presented claims well outside the Government's earnings guidelines.

The Union of Post Office Workers is set to negotiate with the Post Office over a claim due to have taken effect on January 1. That claim also goes outside the guidelines.

Mortgage appeal procedure

By Margaret Stone

Applicants for a building society mortgage under the local authority support scheme will now be able to appeal to an independent panel if their mortgage application is refused by a building society.

Mr. Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced yesterday that the Mortgage Review Panel would be chaired by Mr. Sam Musson, former Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

The other panel members will be two Labour MPs, Mr. Robert Mellish and Mr. Arthur Blenkinsop, and two Conservative members, Mr. William Clark and Mr. Paul Channon. Lady Shipperley, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Local Government, completes the panel, although other members may be added later.

The panel will be the second stage of an appeals procedure. Applicants who are refused a mortgage will first have to appeal to a higher level within the building society to which the application was first made.

English National Opera North at Leeds."

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Police authority head wants 'ripper' caught dead or alive

From Ronald Kershaw

Mr. Kenneth Davison, chairman of the West Yorkshire Police Committee, said last night that he would like to see the so-called "Yorkshire Ripper" caught dead or alive. He considered that a reward offered for the apprehension of the man who is thought to have murdered six women in West Yorkshire was quite ethical and might even be termed "bounty money or blood money."

He was commenting on a Home Office statement yesterday that it had not rejected the suggestion of the West Yorkshire Police of a £10,000 reward.

Yorkshire businessmen have offered a £10,000 reward, which Mr. Davison said he felt should be additional to any reward.

Architecture report

Selective repair or complete demolition?

Selective repair of sound buildings, even in a terrace where some houses have to be demolished, is a cheaper and more socially acceptable way of dealing with the entire terrace, according to a new report. Other important advantages of the selective approach include less social disruption, the displacement of less than half the number of people who would be removed from their homes and the saving of planning blight by virtue of a faster building programme.

These are some of the conclusions of a report commissioned by the Solon Housing Association on the proposed redevelopment of a street of 23 terraced houses by the London borough of Lambeth. The housing association owns one property in Nealdon Street, in the middle of the Lambeth-Burgynne Housing Action Area, an area in which the council is planning to demolish the terrace and build new houses. The report was prepared by the Lambeth Council's survey of the properties was too large-scale to be sound, and the settlement that had been attributed to poor sub-structure was in reality attributable to something more susceptible to human action, namely poor drains. So one principal inference from the report is that councils still think too big, and that a true picture of what needs to be done can be gained only by being thorough and painstaking.

There are, however, more important implications from the study. The first is termed "appropriate development". In some cases development is appropriate, but it is not so where buildings are sound, and where the occupants are unwilling to move.

Furthermore, the consequences of proceeding inappropriately are expensive. In a street of only 23 small houses total redevelopment would cost more than £100,000, but a true picture of what needs to be done can be gained only by being thorough and painstaking.

The second implication is equally important, that of continuing maintenance as compared with total rehabilitation. Present policies are organized that when it is decided

to rehabilitate a house, it has to be brought up to a full standard immediately, within one building contract. In the older, poorer houses the fabric often cannot take it, and the rehabilitated building may decay even faster afterwards.

Continuing maintenance, on the other hand, is something with which most owner-occupiers are acquainted, and is really a matter of good husbandry. The point being made by Solon is that a full rehabilitation scheme could be just as appropriate as complete redevelopment.

Solon argues that similar surveys should be carried out by similar multi-professional teams throughout the country, so that a picture of the appropriate development required may be prepared. It is estimated that the cost of the survey is about £300 a house. If the survey is accepted, the savings in capital cost alone will be more than £4,000 a house, which, multiplied over the million old dwellings in the United Kingdom, would make a considerable contribution to housing renewal costs.

Charles McKean

Miner killed

Mr. Clifford Erosnow, aged 52, a pit deputy, of Kirk Burton, died yesterday after falling from a roof fall at Emley Moor colliery yesterday.

Letter says Strauss aide abducted

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb. 14

Bavarian police were searching today for an adviser to Herr Franz-Josef Strauss, the right-wing Bavarian political leader, after what could be a political kidnapping.

Herr Strauss, aged 30, foreign affairs adviser to Herr Strauss's opposition Christian Social Union, has been missing since he left his Munich flat early yesterday morning to drive to a park to walk his dog.

His car was found soon after wards standing crossways in the garage, unlocked and with the keys in the ignition. The dog was in the car and Herr Strauss's hat lay on the floor nearby.

An anonymous letter received by the Munich office of the West German news agency DPA today asserted that the authors of the letter, who identified themselves only by the letters "KGS", had kidnapped Herr Strauss.

Now Strauss can show how much freedom and a human life are worth to him," it said.

The message, punched out on black plastic strips and stuck to a piece of paper, was postmarked yesterday afternoon at 1 p.m. yesterday, before news of the disappearance had circulated. There was no indication of what the letters KGS stood for, and police know of no group using the initials.

Police believe the message could have come only from kidnappers or from Herr Strauss himself. "Everything is possible, from a political kidnapping to a voluntary abandonment of his previous 'circles'," a police spokesman said.

Herr Strauss, who took up his job after a period in the foreign service, prepared Herr Strauss's frequent trips abroad and usually accompanied him.

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Letter says Strauss aide abducted

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb. 14

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Letter says Strauss aide

er judge
to
ary and

EUROPE

Specialists counter re cost estimates left's reforms

les Hargrove
14
alist Party estimated
applying the social
nic reforms of the
programme for two
a victory by the left
rch elections would
budget deficit this
out 40,000m francs
a figure comparable
the United States
Germany which had
policy of reflation,
Bouleche, chairman
ty's economic com-
l this morning, and
at the Organization
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it recommended for
lists' costing, which
s in some ways over-
s a reply to the
s prediction that
Programme would
mole ruin. Mr Ray-
s, the Prime Minis-
on television last
it would mean an
urden for the econ-
227,000m francs
and a doubling of
all Frenchmen, if
re not used to fin-
deficit of 227,000m
did not require a
of taxes", M
remarked today.
arks are unworthy



The French Elections
of a serious economist. They are part of the old tactics of the right of frightening the voters.
No increase in income tax was envisaged by the Socialists, unless reflation were slow to produce more tax revenue. The Government would then resort to a one-off 10 per cent increase in tax this year.
One of the most costly left-wing measures would be to increase by 35 per cent the national minimum wage to 2,400 francs (£250) a month.
To counter the sharp increase in the wages bill the state would take over part of the employers' social security contribution during the initial two-year period.
Common Programme expenditure overall would be met by wealth and capital gains taxes, an increase in company taxes, the tracking down of tax evaders, increased returns from the effects of economic reflation, and economies in energy.

rs clash with politicians for Venice to cut its with the mainland

Nichols
14
of Venice was
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has been raised by
young lawyers, led
Francesco Mario
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o Sandro Meccoli,
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of the organization
nni Pellicani, the
deputy mayor,
proposal as "an
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solved problems".
that the decision
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ing Mestre, to the
e Venice smacked
randeur". Mestre

has since grown from a town
of 30,000 inhabitants to a
chaotic city of 210,000
compared with the 98,000 who still
live in old Venice. Signor
Pellicani sees the city as an
indivisible trinity of Venice,
Mestre and the industrial zones.
All three reflect different
aspects of the same problem.
He also sees a certain absurdity
in a project for splitting Venice
from the mainland when the
city as a whole is facing pollu-
tion of the sea and the air
and the huge work of restoring
and protecting Venice's monu-
ments.
One of Venice's outstanding
problems is the gradual absorp-
tion of its inhabitants by
Mestre. Population is falling by
150 a month. But according to
Signor Pellicani, more people
go from Mestre to Venice every
day to work than in the oppo-
site direction, showing that the
lagoon city has an acute shortage
of houses which are habitable
and not too expensive.
Mestre is a huge dormitory,
ugly because of the methods of
speculation by which it was
built as the population increased
during the years of economic
growth. It still is a few
charming reminders of its
original character in its old
centre.
It needs, Signor Pellicani
says, greater cultural opportuni-
ties, sports fields and a greater
feeling of its own identity.
The politicians are taking
this broader outlook even if
the Communists insist that
division would not harm their
electoral fortunes: there would
be a left-wing administration in
both places.
But ordinary people seem to
be attracted by the project.
One man said: "Mestre needs
a new sewage system: what
does an island of canals know
about that?" The same goes
for rubbish collection. There is
also the feeling that Mestre is
tired of being regarded as the
new barbarian centre which is
ruining the old lagoon city.

Runaway bull captured in third-floor flat

Madrid, Feb 14.—Police, fire-
men and dozens of passers by
in the northern town of Zamora
today joined in an impromptu
bullfight that ended two hours
later with the capture of the
animal in a third-floor flat.
The bull tore loose after
being tied to a tree over the
cattle market. After damaging
a car, it entered a building,
smashed down doors and par-
titions.
Helped by police and fire-
men, the owner's nephew
managed to throw a rope
around the animal's neck. The
rope was tied to a lorry which
dragged the bull out.

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British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

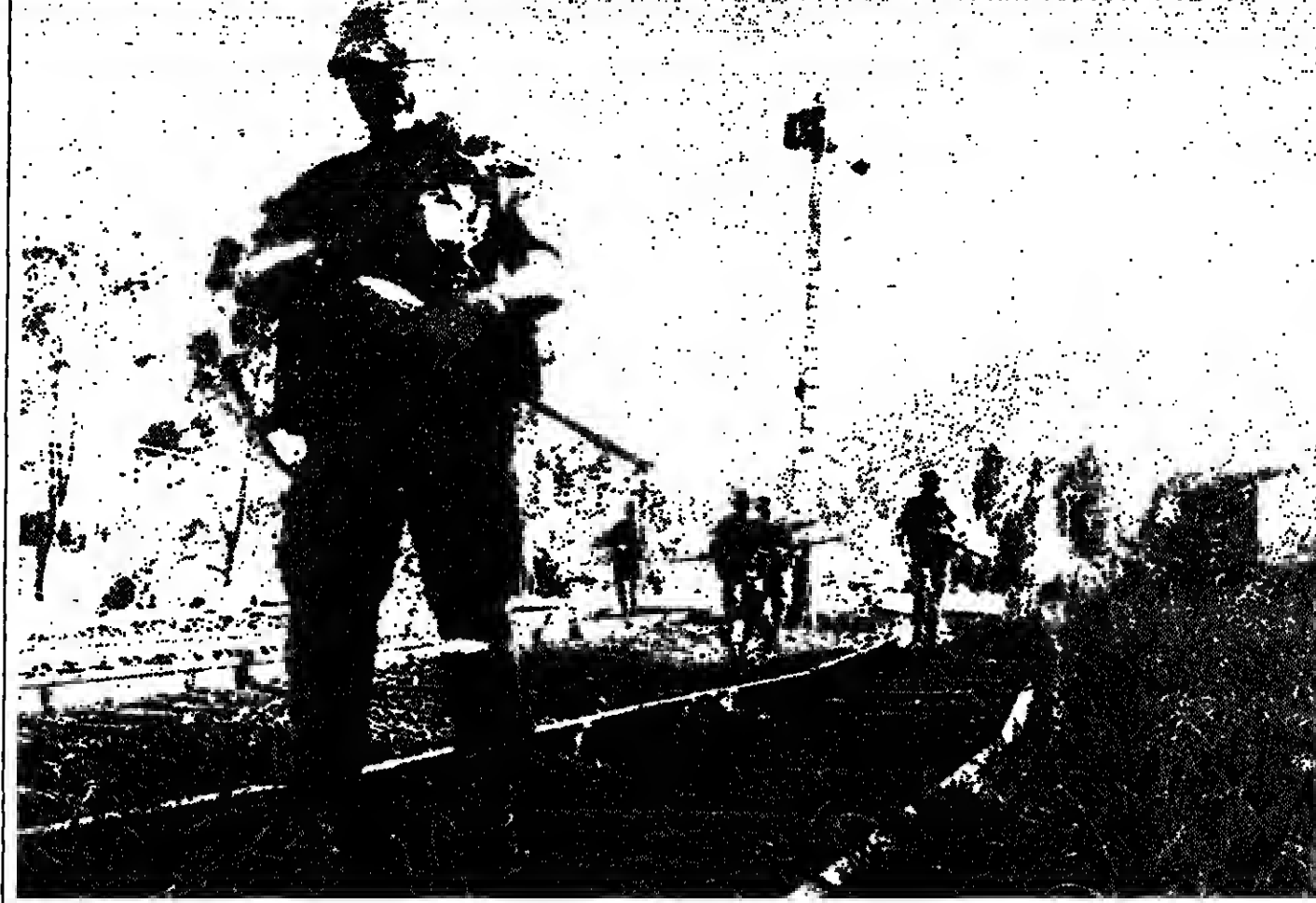
Donations and information:
Major The Earl of Ancaster,
KCVO, TD, Midland Bank
Limited, 60 West Smithfield
London, EC1A 9JX.
"GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE—PLEASE"



OVERSEAS

Patriotic Front wings agree to unite forces

Lusaka, Feb 14.—The two
wings of the Rhodesia Patriotic
Front guerrilla alliance have
drawn up detailed plans for a
single political party and a joint
army under common high
command, senior nationalist
sources said today.
A formal constitution for the
new party is also under prepara-
tion. But the merger is being
delayed by conflicting views be-
tween the two wings on whether
political or military unity
should come first, the sources
said.
The Patriotic Front, formed
in October, 1976, is made up of
Mr Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe
African National Union (Zanu),
based in Mozambique, and the
Zimbabwe-based Zimbabwe African
People's Union (Zapu) of
Mr Joshua Nkomo.
After the recent settlement
talks with British and Ameri-
can representatives in Malawi,
Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo
announced that they were pre-
pared to campaign under one
banner for pre-independence
elections if there was a nego-
tiated solution in Rhodesia.
The merger plan plays a key
role in their strategy for the
polls.
The sources said the two
nationalist organisations had
negotiated how their respec-
tive branches and districts would
be fused into a single party.
The spearhead of the black
war effort against white minor-
ity rule in Rhodesia, it could
present a formidable military
force of between 15,000 and
20,000 men if united, capable of
stretching Rhodesian forces far
more than at present, diplo-
matic sources said.
The leader of the new party
would be chosen at a joint
Zanu-Zapu congress, possibly
when conditions permitted the
Front's two leaders to return
to Rhodesia.
A code of discipline and
been drawn up for a joint force,
guerrilla training methods had
been agreed and there was
agreement in principle on a
joint high command.
The stumbling block, how-
ever, was the contradictory
demands of Zanu for political
unity first and Zanu for initial
military unity.
In Mr Mugabe's view a merger
must be based on the fact that
an armed struggle was
under way and this meant that
the two armies must be united
first, the sources said.
But Mr Nkomo wanted political
unity first so as to provide
a unified front to prevent
clashes between the nationalist
troops, the sources added.
Frederick Cleary writes from
Salisbury: The delegation heads
in the Salisbury internal settle-
ment talks are to meet early
tomorrow to try to break the
continuing deadlock. Two and
a half hours of talks today
again proved fruitless, with
Bishop Abel Muzorewa of the
United African National Council
(UANC) refusing to move
from his stand that only 20
whites should be elected to a
future majority-rule Parliament
on a separate white voters roll
and eight more on a common roll.
The Rhodesian Government,
the African National Council
(Sithole) and the Zimbabwe
United People's Organisation
favour 28 white seats being
chosen on a separate roll.
The fact that the four
leaders are meeting at 8.30 am
tomorrow indicates the seri-
ousness of the situation and a
desire to break out of the two-
week impasse.
Meanwhile, Mr David
Mukwege, the UANC publicity
secretary, said today his party
considered that the success or
failure of the whole settlement
exercise hinged on the question
of the future make-up of the
armed forces. The UANC wants
the guerrillas integrated with
the present security forces,
something Mr Smith, the Prime
Minister, says he will not
tolerate.
Leading article, page 11



Security clampdown: Armed troops on
patrol yesterday in Australia's biggest
peace-time security operation, mounted
to protect Asian and Pacific Common-
wealth leaders after a bomb attack on
their Sydney hotel on Monday. The
dustbin bomb, believed to have been
fashioned from one of 15 Army land
mines stolen last year, killed two
dustmen. Yesterday, after two days
of talks on closer political and
economic links, the heads of state

travelled by road and helicopter to a
country house at Bowral for two days
of informal discussions. On the orders
of Mr Fraser, the Prime Minister, who
decided on the switch from the
originally-planned train journey, the
whole 80-mile route was guarded by
troops, while marksmen in helicopters
flew overhead. The Prime Ministers
of Australia, India, Sri Lanka, Malay-
sia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Fiji,
Western Samoa, Tonga, the presidents

of Bangladesh and Nauru and Mr
Lance Adams-Schneider, New
Zealand's Trade and Industry
Minister, reached the closely-guarded
Berida Manor without incident. They
were to be joined by Mr Fraser later.
Before leaving for Bowral, Mr Desai,
the Indian Prime Minister, told a press
conference it was possible that ter-
rorist elements of the Indian-based
religious sect Ananda Marga were
threatening his life.

Car plants threatened by US coal strike

From David Cross
Washington, Feb 14
The United States Admini-
stration is intensifying its efforts
to end the country's longest
coal miners strike amid warn-
ings from car manufacturers
that they may soon have to
close some plants.
During a meeting with
miners' leaders yesterday, Mr
Ray Marshall, the Labour Sec-
retary, sought ways of bringing
them back to negotiations with
the mine owners. He met man-
agement representatives today.
But the union's rejection by
30 votes to six of the latest
management offer giving a 37
per cent increase in wages over
the next three years, as well as
a number of fringe benefits, has
made the immediate resumption
of talks highly unlikely.
The mine owners say that
they are appalled by the rejection
which came after four and
a half months of complex nego-
tiations.
President Carter has so far
refused appeals to become
personally involved in the dis-
pute lasting already 71 days.
A Chrysler Corporation
spokesman said that all produc-
tion could be halted by the
beginning of next month.
Power companies in Ohio
expect a 75 per cent reduction
in supplies of electricity by
March 1 if the strike is not
settled soon. A closure of all
Chrysler plants would make
some 150,000 workers idle.
The Ford management said
that an early settlement of the
strike was essential if all its
plants were to remain open.
American Motors said it could
be forced to cut production of
Jeeps.

President Amin says he will visit Britain

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Feb 14
President Amin of Uganda
has said in a BBC television
interview filmed in Kampala
that he will soon travel to
Britain, to try to solve past
"misunderstandings" with the
British Government.
He said that relations had
been strained because Britain
resisted his decision in 1972
to expel Asians as part of his
economic war.
Uganda radio, giving a report
of the interview today, quoted
President Amin as saying that
the allegations of atrocities in
Uganda were "complete non-
sense". The allegations were
made by the British, whom he
had "co-optured".

He repeated that the British
are his best friends, and that
he has a high regard for the
Queen. He hoped that Britain
would reopen diplomatic rela-
tions with Uganda, which were
broken in 1976.
He was also quoted as say-
ing that Britain had refused to
guarantee the amount of snow we
would get in the latest storm,
which reached the New York
area this morning.
The fall was a modest four
inches, which is what both fore-
casting services had predicted
yesterday. Yet late last week
Accu-weather, a private service,
was issuing warnings that the
snow might be much more
severe, while the Government-
run National Weather Service
was being less alarmist.

Storm raised by warring weathermen rivals fury of New York blizzards

From Michael Leapman
New York, Feb 14
The ferocity of this winter's
weather in America has been
all but equalled by the ferocity
of a dispute between rival
weather forecasting services.
The row came to a head last
weekend as forecasters tried to
guarantee the amount of snow we
would get in the latest storm,
which reached the New York
area this morning.
The fall was a modest four
inches, which is what both fore-
casting services had predicted
yesterday. Yet late last week
Accu-weather, a private service,
was issuing warnings that the
snow might be much more
severe, while the Government-
run National Weather Service
was being less alarmist.

The dispute went public at
the weekend, when one of the
National Weather Service fore-
casters, in giving his bulletin,
remarked: "So the big storm
played up by some private
meteorologists to sensationalize
and scare the public, appears
to be much less fearsome and
threatening. We attempt to
give an honest and scientific
appraisal of weather situations
and are not intent on scoping
anybody on a news story."
Accu-weather is the leading
private forecasting service in
the New York area. It uses
data supplied by the National
Weather Service, but gets its
own experts and computers to
analyse it and come up with
forecasts which sometimes
differ from the official ones.

In the case of the two large
snowstorms New York has
suffered this year, Accu-weather
says that its predictions were
more accurate than those of the
National Weather Service.
Although Accu-weather under-
estimated the 12in fall during
the first storm last month, the
official forecast had been for
rain. And Accu-weather was
earlier in predicting the
severity of last week's blizzard.
Today, hostilities in the war
of the weather have subsided.
People who telephoned the National
Weather Service's recorded
forecast were greeted with:
"Good morning. It's Valentine's
Day and our hearts are filled
with love and our streets are
filled with snow."

Botha report on Namibia stalemate

From Our Own Correspondent
Cape Town, Feb 14
The South African Cabinet to-
day considered what action to
take after the apparent stale-
mate reached last weekend at
talks in New York on the future
of Namibia (South West Africa).
The Cabinet heard from Mr
R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minis-
ter, what took place during the
negotiations with the foreign
ministers of the five Western
powers and why he had decided
to leave New York prematurely.
On arrival Mr Botha said that
there was hope for resumed talks
"if the Western nations are pre-
pared to accept the reasonable-
ness of South Africa's stand-
point".
Mr Vorster, the Prime Minis-
ter, is likely to announce South
Africa's response to the set-back
when he addresses Parliament.
He may delay his statement
until Mr Botha has had time to
consult Mr Justice Steyn, the
Administrator-General.

Appointments Vacant also on page 16

**PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL
APPOINTMENTS**
**THE MANCHESTER
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**
Manchester M13 0XT
There will be vacancies in Sep-
tember 1978 for well-quali-
fied specialists capable of
teaching at all levels in:
(a) MATHEMATICS;
(b) HISTORY, with POLITICS
to Advanced and Scholarship
standard.
Applications, with full
curriculum vitae and the names
of two referees, should be
addressed to the High Master as
soon as possible.
PART-TIME TEACHER required by
well-known Secondary College in
Cambridge for French, Latin,
Classical Correspondence and French
teaching. Please apply to the Director
of Education, 200, The Grange,
Cambridge CB2 3RQ. Tel: 0223
5631.
T.E.L. teacher
(N.E.L., I.N., P.O.C., etc.)
750 6040. Part-time, London.

University of London
**CHAIR OF FORENSIC
PSYCHIATRY AT THE
INSTITUTE OF
PSYCHIATRY**
The Senate invite applications for
the above Chair, which is a
senior position in the Institute
of Psychiatry and is a full-time
post. The holder will be expected
to undertake research and to
teach in the Institute and in
other parts of the University.
Further particulars from the
Director of the Institute of Psychiatry,
12th Floor, Lambeth Palace House,
London, SE1 7JQ. Applications
should be sent to the Director
by 15th March 1978. Closing
date March 21, 1978.

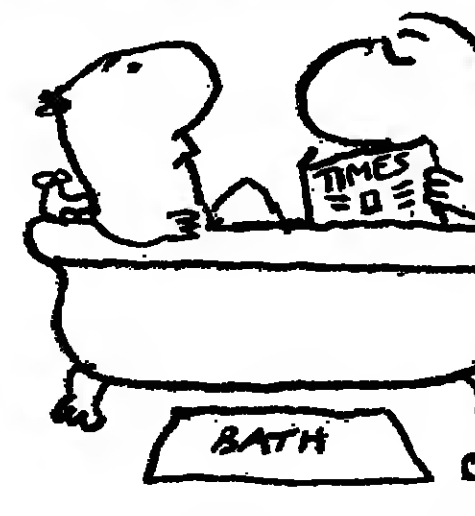
University of Reading
**READERSHIP OR
LECTURESHIP IN
CONTEMPORARY
GERMANY**
Applications are invited for a
Readership or Lectureship in
Contemporary Germany, within
the Department of Germanic
Languages and Literature. The
candidate should have a Ph.D.
in Germanic Languages and
Literature and a strong interest
in the history and political
culture of modern Ger-
many.
An appointment with date
from 1 October 1978.
Further particulars may be
obtained from the Registrar,
The University, Whiteknights
Campus, Reading RG2 2AA, or
from whom applications should be
sent by 28 March 1978.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS
University of Leicester
**CHAIR OF APPLIED
PHYSIOLOGY**
Applications are invited for a
Chair of Applied Physiology
within the Department of Phys-
iology, Leicester from 1 October
1978 or as soon as possible
thereafter. The holder will be
responsible for the post will be
teaching of physiology, conduct
and supervise research in
physiology. There are excellent
facilities for research. A mod-
est grant is available for the
purchase of equipment. The
candidate should have a Ph.D.
in Physiology or a related field
and must have teaching experi-
ence in undergraduate and
graduate levels in Veterinary
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OVERSEAS

Syrian leader visits Moscow this week looking for arms and opposed to fresh negotiations

From David Watts
Damascus, Feb 14

For the first time since the visit to Jerusalem of President Sadat of Egypt, the Soviet Union will reenter the Middle East power equation when President Assad of Syria visits Moscow later this week.

What the Syrians see as a decisive swing in the balance of power in the Middle East in favour of Israel has left Damascus searching for a credible counter-balance to its cooling relations with the United States. Damascus has usually managed to keep on good terms with both Washington and Moscow but the credibility of the Americans is at a new low here after President Sadat's initiative. The lack of any significant concession from the Israelis in the peace talks has confirmed to the Syrian regime that it was right in its initial condemnation of Mr Assad.

Mr Assad has always been ready to show flexibility in his approach to peace but the present impasse in the talks between Israel and Egypt and the divisions in the Arab world

mean that Mr Assad has, for the moment, joined the radical rejectionist front.

Rejection of its traditional ally, Egypt, Syria is facing the prospect of standing alone in the frontline confrontation with Israel. New supplies of arms for Syria, paid by the Libyans, are on the agenda in Moscow but political observers in Damascus believe that the Soviet Union will also be exerting pressure on the Syrians to think in terms of a new Middle East peace conference.

Mr Ahmed Iskander, the Syrian Minister of Information, emphatically rejects that approach, however: "Any negotiations in the history of the world are a reflection of the balance of power as it is. How can we go to any conference to face a pact between Sadat and Begin (the Israeli Prime Minister)? Because of Sadat's balance of power is in favour of our enemy."

He believes this to have been deliberately created in a Central Intelligence Agency-Pentagon scheme to split the Arabs and leave the Israelis in an even more dominant position. He says that the aim of having Mr

Sadat visit Jerusalem was to save Israel from international isolation, prevent the reconvening of the Geneva conference, split the Arabs and prevent an end to the state of belligerency.

"It is clear through the sequence of events since the Sadat visit that Israel does not want peace and certain circles in America feel the same. Sadat was exploited by these circles. The visit achieved all its aims. Beforehand there was pressure on Israel to go to Geneva, recognize the PLO and withdraw from Arab lands. The visit enabled Begin to escape from all these dilemmas. It was Begin's dream to reach such a state."

If the Americans are sincere in their desire for peace, Mr Iskander says, they must stop directing the Sadat-Begin "circus" and stop supplying Israel with weapons. "All we are asking the United States is to be faithful to its promises to the Arabs and prove, not only by words, that it is against a separate solution."

Michael Binyon writes from Moscow: Major Abdul Salam Jalloud, the Libyan deputy leader, arrived tonight in Mos-

cow at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

Libya is one of the Soviet Union's closest friends in the Middle East, and a leading opponent of President Sadat's peace initiative. The Russians have been increasingly angered by Egypt, and share with the Libyans the conviction that President Sadat is hostile to their interests in the region.

Moscow still wants a reconvening of the Geneva peace conference, though the Libyans have long been opposed even to this.

The Russians are obviously keen to make their influence felt again in the Middle East. They exact a good opportunity if President Sadat's initiative fails, and have given strong verbal support to the Palestinians, the Algerians and other rejectionists recently.

Libya has also been a strong supporter of the Eritrean separatists and this issue may well be brought up in Moscow. As the Russians have decided to throw their weight behind the Ethiopian Marxist regime, they may try to persuade the Libyans to tone down their support for the Eritreans.

Envoy says Arabs and West arming Somalia

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Feb 14

The Ethiopian Ambassador to Kenya, Mr Mengistu Desta, told a press conference here today that the crisis in the Horn of Africa was Somali aggression against Ethiopia. "This is the central issue which President Carter and a number of his Nato allies conveniently ignore," he said.

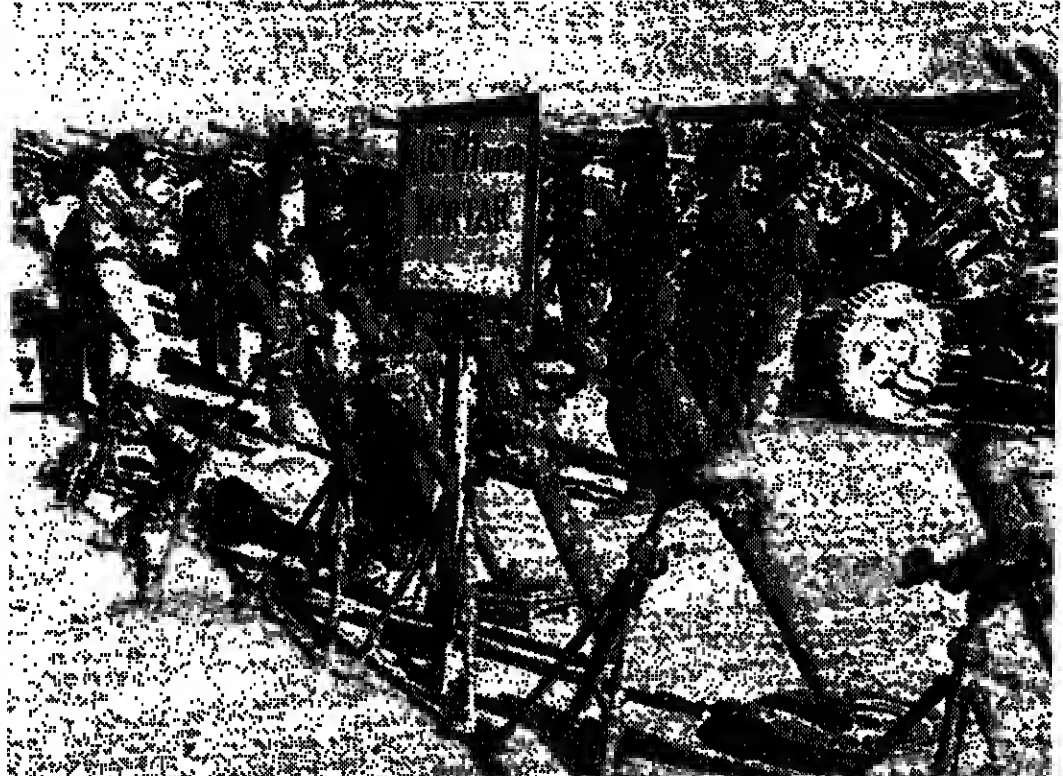
Ethiopia had no claims on other countries' territory, but was bound to protect its own unity and integrity. It would not invade Somalia.

The Ambassador said the "unholy Arab-Western alliance" was supplying Somalia with arms, in violation of United Nations principles.

The only way to restore peace and stability in the Horn of Africa was for Somalia to withdraw its invading forces, and to renounce its claims on neighbouring countries.

Dr Munya Waiyaki, the Kenyan Foreign Minister, said in a television interview tonight that Kenya would take a neutral view of any country supplying arms to Somalia. It was known that some Western and Arab countries were supplying Somalia through intermediaries, he said.

Dr Waiyaki explained that Somalia had never renounced its "wild dreams" of a greater Somalia which would include part of Northern Kenya, as



Ethiopian troops at Dire Dawa display arms, said to be of Western manufacture, captured in the Ogaden war.

well as the Ogaden region of Ethiopia.

President Amin of Uganda was quoted today as saying that he had no doubts that he would be able to mediate in the Ethiopia-Somalia conflict.

Mogadishu: The Somali Government said today that the Soviet Union and Cuba were delaying efforts to bring home 450 Somali students studying in the two countries.

A Somali airliner had been refused permission to land in Moscow to pick up 373 students there, and Havana had banned an airliner chartered to bring back 73 Somalis studying in Cuba, Mr Ibrahim Abayn, Director of Higher Education, said.

Mr Abayn said Iraq had now agreed to send flights to Moscow and had provided diplomatic assistance in

Havana. The Somali Embassy in Moscow said the first group of students would leave tomorrow.

Moscow: The Soviet Union said its aid to Ethiopia was purely for defence and accused Nato countries, especially France, of indirectly providing arms to Somalia. Tass said 60 French tanks were reported to have been sent to Somalia through Saudi Arabia.—Reuters.

Mr Sadat believes his trip timely for swaying opinion

Cairo, Feb 14.—President Sadat told the Egyptians tonight that his trip to America and Europe had been made at the right time. He said on television that he felt he had successfully explained Egypt's view to President Carter.

His eight-day tour, which ended yesterday, was hailed today in the Egyptian press, which said he had won more understanding and sympathy for his Middle East peace efforts.

The mass-circulation newspaper Al Akhbar said he had come home "more determined to work to achieve peace."

Al Akhbar said yesterday that "an acute crisis has erupted between the United States and Israel after President Sadat's visit to Washington."

It returned to the subject in an editorial today and asked if the United States would ever be in its mediation efforts or submit to what it called Israeli blackmail.—Reuters.

The newspaper Al Gomhouri

said that in addition to its political and military results, the tour had had a great effect on world opinion. "Arab rights won more understanding, consolidation and support", it said.

President Sadat was welcomed home in Cairo airport last night by Government ministers, diplomats and members of the People's Assembly (Parliament).

He made no statement on arrival, but before leaving Rome, the last stop of his tour, he told reporters that he was fully satisfied with his discussions in the countries he visited.

Italian officials also quoted him as telling Silvio Berlusconi, the caretaker Prime Minister, "I will not give up my pursuit of peace."

President Sadat embarked on his visits to Morocco, the United States, Britain, West Germany, Austria, Romania, France and Italy after the collapse of political talks with Israel last month.—Reuters and AP.

Deadlock on Concorde not resolved

From Our Correspondent
Kuala Lumpur, Feb 14

The Anglo-Malaysian talks on Concorde adjourned today for three weeks as Mr George Rogers, an Under-Secretary in the Department of Trade, who heads the British team, left for a planned trip to Australia and New Zealand.

According to informed sources, the two countries remained deadlocked over Malaysia's ban on Concorde flights. A British High Commissioner statement today said the talks on the substantive issues would be resumed when the teams meet again in March.

There had been hopes that the presence of Mr Rogers would help smooth some of the rough edges in the negotiations.

It is generally felt here that although the officials may reach a technical agreement, the ultimate decision is a political one.

Cyprus President goes to Athens for consultations

From Mario Modiano
Athens, Feb 14

President Kyprianou of Cyprus arrived in Athens today for consultations about recent and expected developments concerning the Cyprus dispute.

He told journalists here: "The common policy of Athens and Nicosia remains unchanged: we seek a just solution of the problem based on United Nations resolutions. However, we may have to take decisions for the future handling of the issue."

He was met at the airport by

Conflicting demands of ideology and peace entangle Israelis

Mix-up on settlements

From Our Own Correspondent
Jerusalem, Feb 14

The Israeli Government appears to have become entangled in its many-stranded policy over Jewish settlements in the occupied territories—the issue mainly responsible for its disagreement with Washington.

The different strands hardly seem to be the products of the same machine.

In spite of many reports to the contrary, Israel is not increasing the number of its settlements. But there has been much publicized ground-clearing for the Cabot confirmed on Sunday, Israel claims the right under international law for such expansion.

However, on the same day as the Cabinet made its pronouncement, the Ministry of Defence declared that ground-clearing work was being suspended outside the settlements in the Rafiah salient of northern Sinai.

The cause of much of the confusion is the rivalry between Mr Ariel Sharon, the Minister of Agriculture and the man responsible for settlement, and Mr Ezer Weizman, the Minister of Defence, whose ministry administers the occupied territories.

The decision to stop creating new "agricultural observation posts" in Sinai was made by Mr Weizman on the eve of his departure for Cairo for a second round of military talks with Egypt two weeks ago. But it was not implemented by Mr Sharon until several days ago when more work had been completed.

At the heart of the matter lies the ideological commitment of Mr Begin's Government to developing Eretz Israel, the biblical homeland of the Jews, and safeguarding its security through Jewish settlements. Although the Sinai settlements are not, in fact, in the ancient land of Israel, the Government's view is that they are essential to security.

So far ministers are in broad agreement on policy. But beyond this point they differ over tactics. Faced with his Cairo negotiations, Mr Weizman seems primarily concerned with damp-

ing down international opposition to further Israeli settlements.

Mr Sharon, however, a dedicated expansionist, believes the Government should be seen to be taking a strong line in promoting settlement.

Thus Mr Sharon has launched a policy in the last few months of establishing "footholds" in northern Sinai, each of which has been assigned to an existing settlement, some as far as 20 miles away.

The footholds are fenced-in areas, each with a small, fibre-glass building and two water-tanks. Another term for them is "agricultural observation posts". According to one settler, the authorities suggested that settlers should sow some seeds around them to give the impression that a formal settlement had been established.

The establishment of these footholds would effectively double the size of the area in Sinai in which permanent settlements were now existing.

In the West Bank area also the Government has sidestepped its pledge that no new settlements will be allowed. Here it has granted an archaeological permit to settlers, even though they insist that they are in fact establishing a permanent settlement, geared to agriculture rather than to archaeology.

Such tactics have brought the Government's credibility into question, and disturbed Israelis of all political complexions. Moderates are distressed by the inept and seemingly dishonest way the matter has been handled, and the fervent Land of Israel zealots are disappointed that Mr Begin and his Cabinet have not taken a more resolute stand.

Our Geneva Correspondent writes: A resolution passed today by the United Nations Human Rights Commission condemned Israel for its "policies and practices" in the occupied territories.

The vote was 23 in favour of the resolution, with 12 abstentions and 10 non-votes. The abstentions were from Canada, the United States, Austria, Brazil, Britain, France, Sweden and Uruguay abstaining.

Two killed by explosion in crowded Jerusalem bus

Jerusalem, Feb 14.—A bomb exploded in a crowded bus in Jerusalem tonight, killing two people and wounding 35 others, five of them seriously.

The bus was making its way through the ultra-orthodox neighbourhood of Mea Shearim when the explosion tore off the rear end of the bus. Hysterical passengers, pools of blood and torn human limbs could be seen on the floor.

The driver had searched the bus before beginning its run.

After a few stops an Arab worker carrying a package got on and went to the far end of the bus. The driver said he did not search the package.

The worker was seen to place a package in a refrigerator packed with explosives hewn up outside a snack bar in Zion Square, killing seven teenagers.

Beirut: The Palestinian news agency Wafa said the Palestinian resistance claimed responsibility for the explosion.—UPI, Reuters and Agence France-Press.

In brief

Judge says no to Mr 1069

Minneapolis, Feb 14.—A judge has ruled that Mr Michael Herbert Dengler can not change his name to 1069, because a number "is totalitarian and an offence to human dignity."

Mr Dengler, a former social studies teacher, said he wanted to be called 1069 because the number symbolized his inner relationship with society and reflected his personal and philosophical identity. He said each digit had significance for him.

Polanski sentence delay

San Francisco, Feb 14.—A California superior court judge delayed sentencing the film director Roman Polanski in his absence for unlawful intercourse with a 13-year-old girl after Mr Polanski's lawyer claimed the judge was prejudiced.

More detainees named

Buenos Aires, Feb 14.—The Argentine Government published the identities of 798 detainees held without trial at La Plata prison. This brings the total of named prisoners to 1,500, leaving 2,100 whose identities have not been disclosed.

Arm sewn back

Johannesburg, Feb 14.—Mr Colin Mason, a British migrant whose left arm was torn off in a Cape Town factory accident, has had it sewn back. Surgeons said it would be several months before it could function again.

Prisoners in polls

Manila, Feb 14.—The Philippines National Security Council decided that military detainees should be allowed to contest forthcoming elections, but appeared to rule out any temporary release for them to take part in the election campaign.

Tiger Moth held up

Athens, Feb 14.—Flight Lieutenant David Cyster, attempting to fly solo to Australia in a Tiger Moth, was forced for the second time to return here soon after he took off for Heraklion, Crete, because of bad weather.

Bombs shake Beirut

Beirut, Feb 14.—Seven people were wounded in two explosions in central Beirut today as Lebanon's Parliament passed controversial legislation on law and order.

Employment Appeal Tribunal

Lonrho is urged to consider extra-legal duties

Pambakian and Others v Brentford Nylons Ltd and Another
Before Mr Justice Phillips, Mrs D. Lancaster and Mrs A. L. T. Taylor

The Employment Appeal Tribunal directed Lonrho Textiles Ltd to lodge with the registrar of the tribunal a statement of the steps (if any) it was prepared to take towards voluntarily satisfying the claims of 18 men whom they had dismissed for redundancy.

It was also ordered that a copy of the statement be made available to the men and that they might well think it proper to consider their extra-legal responsibilities in the matter.

The tribunal was asked to consider the case of the new proprietors, without condoning the dismissal of the men, until a statement from Lonrho was received.

The directions were given when the Appeal Tribunal allowed an appeal by Mr Pambakian and 17 others from the decision of a London Industrial Tribunal last July, on a preliminary issue, that the first respondents, Brentford Nylons Ltd, were the employers and that Brentford Nylons (1976) Ltd (now Lonrho Textiles Ltd), had no liability in respect of claims for redundancy payments and compensation for unfair dismissal. The industrial tribunal had also found that the employees were dismissed for redundancy, including what was said to be a "substantial" reason.

Mr Stephen Sedley for the employees, Mr Anthony Rosowood for Brentford Nylons and Mr Morris for Brentford Nylons (1976) Ltd.

MR JUSTICE PHILLIPS said that the employees were originally employed by Brentford Nylons. The company got into financial difficulties and in February, 1976, a receiver was appointed. In 1976, Brentford Nylons made a living-down agreement with Kinnow Ltd, which was acquired by Lonrho. The agreement provided that the employees would be transferred to Kinnow. Kinnow later changed its name to Lonrho Nylons (1976) Ltd, which was eventually acquired by Lonrho Ltd. The employees continued to do the same work as before, but were now employed by Lonrho Nylons (1976) Ltd.

A procedural misunderstanding before the industrial tribunal led the chairman to believe that a preliminary issue common to all the cases was being tried. In fact the only application was for an order that Mr Pambakian's appeal should be allowed. The chairman's error was not to determine the contracts of employment of the existing employees of Brentford Nylons, but to determine the contracts of employment of the new employees of Lonrho Nylons (1976) Ltd.

The basis of the reasoning in several of the judgments was that the employer disposed of the whole business in which the employees were engaged they could be taken to have been dismissed. There was no longer any business in which they could be employed. But that was not the present situation.

Brentford Nylons retained a business activity, namely, the provision of employees to Kinnow. It would be most inconvenient if the employees of Brentford Nylons could be taken to have been dismissed by operation of law such a living-down agreement operated so as to determine the contracts of employment of the employees. The Appeal Tribunal agreed with the industrial tribunal's view on that issue.

The industrial tribunal had been concerned with the question of whether the employees were all employed by Brentford Nylons and had never entered the employment of Brentford Nylons (1976) Ltd.

Queen's Bench Division

No interference with committal proceedings

Regina v A Wells Street Stipendiary Magistrate, ex parte Seillon
Before Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Wynn and Mr Justice Kenderes

It is not the practice for the Divisional Court to interfere with committal proceedings which have not run their course. Their Lordships said that the magistrates' claim was not admissible at this stage in these proceedings.

Their Lordships had been asked to consider a question which was a proper question to be asked at the time of the committal proceedings, but which was not a proper question to be asked at this stage.

The relief sought originally was an order very wide in scope, which would have been refused on order now asked for could be subject to conditions, such as an order that the defendant should be released on bail.

The question would relate to civil liberties of a defendant, and not to the criminal proceedings. The committal proceedings were adjourned on January 25.

Mr J. M. Williams QC and Mr R. M. S. Seillon for the Director of Public Prosecutions; Mr David Ashby for the two other defendants; Mr J. H. Wynn for the Director of Public Prosecutions; Mr J. H. Wynn for the Director of Public Prosecutions; Mr J. H. Wynn for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

There was a difference of opinion between the magistrates and counsel then appearing for the defendant. The defendant's claim was not admissible at this stage in these proceedings.

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A hat for all seasons in Russia where the right headgear is a social must

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 14

Russia is a land of hats. No Russian is properly dressed without a hat; no foreigner can imagine a Russian without his characteristic fur cap. Probably more than in any other country, one can tell something about the way people live and think, what they earn and do by what they wear on their heads.

From his earliest days a Russian learns that he must never venture outside in winter without a hat. Russians know their climate, and take no chances. Small children, padded and wrapped till they look like waddling balls of wool, wear a tightly fitting balaclava under the hoods of their coats.

Any foreigner who fails to cover his child's head in the accepted way will soon incur the loudly voiced criticism of old women. Children remain coated and hatted until well into April.

For an adult not to wear a hat in winter is therefore a sign either of foolishness or social defiance. A few young, long-haired men nowadays can be seen without any head covering, but in a conformist Soviet society, passers-by stare disapprovingly.

The most common hat for men is the ushunko, a fur hat with ear flaps that tie up on top. This is the hat all tourists buy. It comes in all varieties—cheap and serviceable rubber skin costing 12 roubles (25), brown musquash, astrakhan or

more expensive furs that can cost up to 100 roubles.

Country people and fishermen buy simple leather ushunkos with fur linings. The city elite show their wealth on their heads. But even in the coldest weather men rarely turn down the earflaps. It seems to be a sign of meekness to make no concessions to the climate.

Working men often keep their hats on all the time, in lorries, in shops and indoors, changing them only in late April or May for cloth caps or flat peaked artificial astrakhan caps. The general change to such caps is a sure sign that spring has come.

Working men wear a greater variety. Old peasants and working women invariably wrap their heads in thick serviceable scarves; girls and young women wear highly coloured knitted skull caps that pull down over their ears. The fashion-conscious have elegant fluffy fur bonnets that frame their faces and match their coat colours.

Good hats are expensive and hard to find. A generation ago, it is said, fur hats were on sale in almost any shop. Then the Soviet Union cancelled the hard currency it could earn from fur exports. Furs became rarer and rarer in the shops; prices went up substantially at least three times.

Nevertheless Russians still spend and pull at their pocket to get their hands on a good fur hat. To them it is an

investment and sign of social standing.

The Soviet armed forces have their own hierarchies in headgear. The ordinary soldier wears a felt ushunka with green blue ear flaps. Officers above the rank of colonel are entitled to a papakha, a hat looking rather like a bishop's mitre in grey astrakhan. The police and militia have grey ushunkas, and sailors and airmen have more Western-style flat hats.

Mr Kossygin, the Prime Minister, wears a papakha (pasty), a little pudding of a hat that sits on the top of his head and leaves the ears uncovered. President Brezhnev now favours the common ushunka.

Spring tends to bring out ripples in the older generation. Nikita Khrushchev was fond of a trilby. And some elderly people take to straw boaters in summer. The various ethnic groups in the Soviet Union can still be seen in characteristic headgear, though such things as turbans and Cossack hats have largely disappeared.

Certain hats have social connotations. Top hats quickly died out after the Revolution but even in the 1930s those who wore hats with brims were thought to betray a bourgeois outlook.

Unlike in Britain, where hats have become virtually pure decoration, the Russians treat them as serious articles of clothing. Who betide the foreigner who comes here without one!

When Chairman Hua visited factory by bus

Peking, Feb 14.—Party officials were warned by the People's Daily today not to use their official cars as status symbols when Chairman Hua Tzu-feng himself had travelled by bus to visit a factory.

The newspaper criticized the secretary of an unidentified district factory for trying to bolster his prestige by persuading the local party committee to buy a red flag car, the type used by party bigwigs.

Every time the official went on an inspection tour other cars followed and formed an impressive procession.

The newspaper urged such officials to model themselves on Mao Tse-tung, the late chairman, Chou En-lai, the late Prime Minister, or Chairman Hua "refraining from all egoism and vanity".—Agence France-Press.

Fang Yeh-ling's joyride made known to world

Peking, Feb 14.—China has published in a leading magazine account for foreigners the first detailed trial in Peking.

The case of Fang Yeh-ling, a 26-year-old factory worker, is reported in the March edition of the English-language Peking Review. He was tried at his factory before a judge, two assessors and his fellow workers.

Mr Fang was charged with driving away a lorry which was parked in a Peking street, taking home a tarpaulin on the back and driving without a licence. He was given a two-year suspended sentence. His

fellow workers were told to help him by criticizing his wrong actions and attitudes and encouraging him.

It was stated that Mr Fang had several times in the past stolen jeeps for joyrides. His work supervisor said he was frequently absent from the factory, kept others from their work by talking, and avoided political study sessions.

In his defence, a factory official said the harmful influence of the Gang of Four had to be taken into account because they had incited people to grab anything they wanted.

The publication of the case is an unusual admission that crime exists in China.—Reuters.

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Details soon of first stage of economic and monetary union

A Community (he said) which lives and trades internally and externally needs international monetary stability for its own health and for the health of the world as a whole. Community monetary union could play a major international role and make a major contribution to the end.

The first stage of the five-year plan on economic and monetary union for the next year would shortly be presented.

On energy, useful decisions would be taken at the Community level in 1978. Further progress in energy saving would be harder and involve sacrifices. The Commission would report in 1982. After that they were concerned with investment with long-term effects on the growth and development. Community backed demonstration projects would be of great value.

On agriculture and fisheries; consumers in the past year had had stable supplies, with price rises in some areas but not in others, and most other sectors. But the problem of surpluses in European agriculture was still there. The prudent prices policy was the only way to handle this. Last year they proposed only modest increases in order to avoid a price war. In 1980 they had followed the same course. They would follow it for as long as it was necessary to check surpluses.

That long-term policy (he said) will not be an easy or popular one for the farming community, but the only way to avoid the introduction of even harsher measures to bring excess production under control is to pursue the disincentives of the common policy itself.

On fisheries, a solution would require the agreement of the Council of Ministers. Ministers had to take their responsibilities. But we have the right (he said) to

Bill to allow appeals against leniency fails

would bring forward ideas on the interlinking of questions and problems affecting these countries and also Spain whose application was made later than that of others. They could not be lumped together. Enlargement would be a test of political will and capacity for economic integration. Any weakening of strength would have damaging consequences.

Finally, on direct elections, although 1979 would be the year it is (he said) unfortunately now clear that that will not be so. The delay is unnecessary and regrettable, for the Community badly needs the impulse which a directly-elected Parliament can give. Nonetheless, within the next 12 months the campaign will begin.

We know we shall have a directly-elected Parliament. What we cannot be sure of is whether the reaction will be fruitful. It should be, on the major European issues. The Commission will do all it can to ensure that it is. We must be clear that it is an even more thorough justification of our policies than to the past. You must ensure, and all the candidates for election must, that it does not become a substitute for action nor a diversion into national obsessions.

The Issues we face together are too serious for that.

Chancellor

Mr. Thatcher

and Portugal and looking forward to that of Turkey.

Priority must be given to mustering public opinion behind them. That meant that if the Commission had a greater role over the years they must not forget the Union of

ricing ient of tenance

meanings, and harmful draft dodgers, and bucket heads.

If we are to be the united Europe we all desire (he said), we had better do a great deal better in 1928 than we did in 1897. But if we fail then we shall find ourselves in Europe, proving the truth of Eugene O'Neill's observation that the future is not present but only a past endlessly repeating itself.

Mr. Louis Harbo (Durham, N.C.), said he took issue with Mr Jenkins who had said a prudent prices policy was the only way to handle surplus. In farming terms the rich had to be richer and the poor poorer. Pricing alone could not correct that. It must be allied to a social and economic program of the way assistance was necessarily given.

Herr Erwin Lange (West Germany, Prussia) said Europeans had a lot to make good vis-a-vis the third and fourth world which had often been exploited. Political will must exist to create a new code of conduct for international agreements.

Mr Cornelis Berkhoutwer (Netherlands) said that in stepping back to national protectionism and egotisms within the Community, in some states there still was the desire to go forward as possible. He was not gauding for any one country.

Italy

Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that a fundamental principle of independence must involve a genuine transfer of power to a government representing the majority of the people of a country following free and fair elections on the basis of universal adult suffrage.

The elections should be open to all parties, and to all conditions that ensured that the outcome fairly represented the will of the majority. He concluded they help establish the international democracy and international acceptability.

The Anglo-American proposals incorporated the essence of the six principles and sought to marry the principles with reality. They involved the laying down of an administrative and military framework within which a peaceful transition to majority rule and independence could be achieved.

The Government had been accused of paying too much attention to the claims of the Patriotic Front. Unless the talks had been held in Meila—and there had been no other place—and unless the talks had been conducted with everybody concerned would have been imperfect. The talks were the Government's response to the serious and detailed discussions with the Patriotic Front and were therefore nothing more and nothing less than the continuation of consultations which was held with other parties in Africa last year.

Anglo-US proposals for Rhodesia seek to marry six principles with reality

Lord Goronwv-Roberts, minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that the fundamental principle was that independence must involve a genuine expression of the will of the majority representing the majority of the people of Rhodesia, following free and fair elections on the basis of universal suffrage.

The elections should be open to all parties and be held in conditions that ensured that the outcome was a genuine expression of the majority. Only so could they help to establish the internal legitimacy and international acceptability of the new Government.

The Anglo-American proposals incorporated the basic democratic principles and sought to marry the principles with reality. They included the formation of a new administrative and military framework within which a peaceful transition to majority rule and independence could be achieved.

The Government had been accused of according too much attention to the claims of the Patriotic Front. Unless the claims were based in fact, there might be only a full range of consultations with everybody concerned would have been imperfect. The talks were the Government's response to the demands and demands of the Patriotic Front and were therefore nothing more and nothing less than the continuation of consultations which were being held with other parties in Africa last year.

Bernard Levin

Mind the doors, it's the doctor

A train travelling at 14,000 mph
would cover the distance
between London and New York
in approximately
13 minutes, which should
be fast enough for most of us...

A report from the United States (there's usually something jolly to be found in the *Daily Another Newspaper* if you only look hard enough) gives an account of what may well turn out to be the best wheeze of the century, or at any rate of the week. The scientist—Dr Salter, of the Rand Corporation—has proposed the building of an international network of tube trains, which would take passengers not just from Blackfriars to White City or Redbridge to Turnham Green, but from San Francisco to New York or Boston to Los Angeles. The tunnels would run several thousand feet underground (well, that's what the man said), and the technology for building them—the mentioned laser boring and hypersonic projectiles—already exists.

The silence out front is beginning to alarm me; if, as I hope, you are merely wondering why it should be necessary to build a tunnel to take a train from one side of America to the other, instead of just using an ordinary railway-line, I think I can enlighten you, or at least Dr Salter can. His trains will run through electromagnetic fields, floating in a vacuum (that's what he said, I tell you), and the point, I gather, is that vacuums and electro-magnetic fields are not things you just find lying about on the ground in North Dakota and sublimely places; they have to have tunnels built thousands of feet deep to accommodate them.

I wish I'd never started this.

You now want to know, obviously, what is the point of digging a network of tunnels just so that trains can run through them with the aid of magnetic fields and vacuums, when the ones up above, without a magnetic field or vacuum to their name, can do the job perfectly well. The answer, I fear, is that Dr Salter's trains, with their mile-deep tunnels, their magnetic fields and their vacuums, are going to travel at 14,000 miles an hour.

Now look here. They hire me to write articles, about anything that comes into my head, and today I am writing one about Dr Salter's idea for trains that will run, by the aid of vacuums and magnetic fields, at 14,000 miles an hour in tunnels dug at a depth roughly halfway from here to Australia. I am writing an article about Dr Salter's trains; they are not my trains, nor am I Dr Salter, nor do I know, any more than you do, what the hell he is talking about. I am a perfectly innocent bystander, and all I am doing is to bring to your attention something that might otherwise have escaped altogether. I disclaim all responsibility in this matter, and I certainly will not take up with London Transport the loss, on one of their trains, of your aunt's umbrella.

A train travelling at 14,000 mph would cover the distance between London and New York (I forgot to mention that Doc Poundsretcher's plan includes tunnels beneath the oceans as well as the land) in approxi-

mately 13 minutes, which should be fast enough for most of us. Indeed, you could go right round the world in about an hour and three-quarters, and you must admit it would be rather fun to sit staring out of the window at the stations as they flashed by, reading *France—Japan—New Zealand*. ("I say, guard, does this train stop at Pakistan?" "No, sir, only China—you'll have to wait for the next one.")

Dr Salter did not, apparently, go any further into the technical aspect of things; he was, after all, addressing the Association for the Advancement of Science, and doubtless assumed that a train that would go at 14,000 miles an hour was so self-evidently an example of the advancement of science that the details could be taken as read. No did the "finances" aspect give him pause; the cost would certainly be formidable, but "its revenues would pay for its construction".

(That, as I recall, was what they said about Concorde.)

I travelled on the Buller once; that is the train that plies between Tokyo and Kyoto, and reaches 115 mph in doing so. When I say that the only thing I remember about the journey is not the speed, nor the air-conditioning, nor the comfort, but the sight of Mount Fuji in the distance (I was lucky with the weather, which was beautifully clear), I will no doubt be written off as a dangerous opponent of the advancement of science by Doc Quickstep and his white-coated friends. (Have you ever wondered what happens when a scientist goes completely crazy and they come to take him to the funny-farm? I mean, since they are all dressed alike, how do you distinguish between the ravers and the taken? If it comes to that, how do you know when a scientist has gone crazy, anyway? What, actually, is the difference

between the things they do when they are in full possession of all their marbles and the things they get up to when they are convinced that the Pope is putting dangerous rays into their heads from Outer Space?)

Nor is it much use my saying that I don't want to travel anywhere at 14,000 mph, whether through a vacuum-packed, freeze-dried, farm-fresh magnetic field or not, for the answer will be that there are plenty of people simply longing to do so, and as far as Doc Plenty-Chopchop is concerned I am welcome to stay at home and go whizzing about the world, turning the Buller train (for so it is called) into the most amazingly popular concern. (They said that about Concorde, too.) And if I say that whatever the benefits of the Planetrain it will never be built, they will reply that it is what was said by sceptics about the perpetual motion machine, the Philosopher's Stone and the Brotherhood of Man, and how do the sceptics feel now?

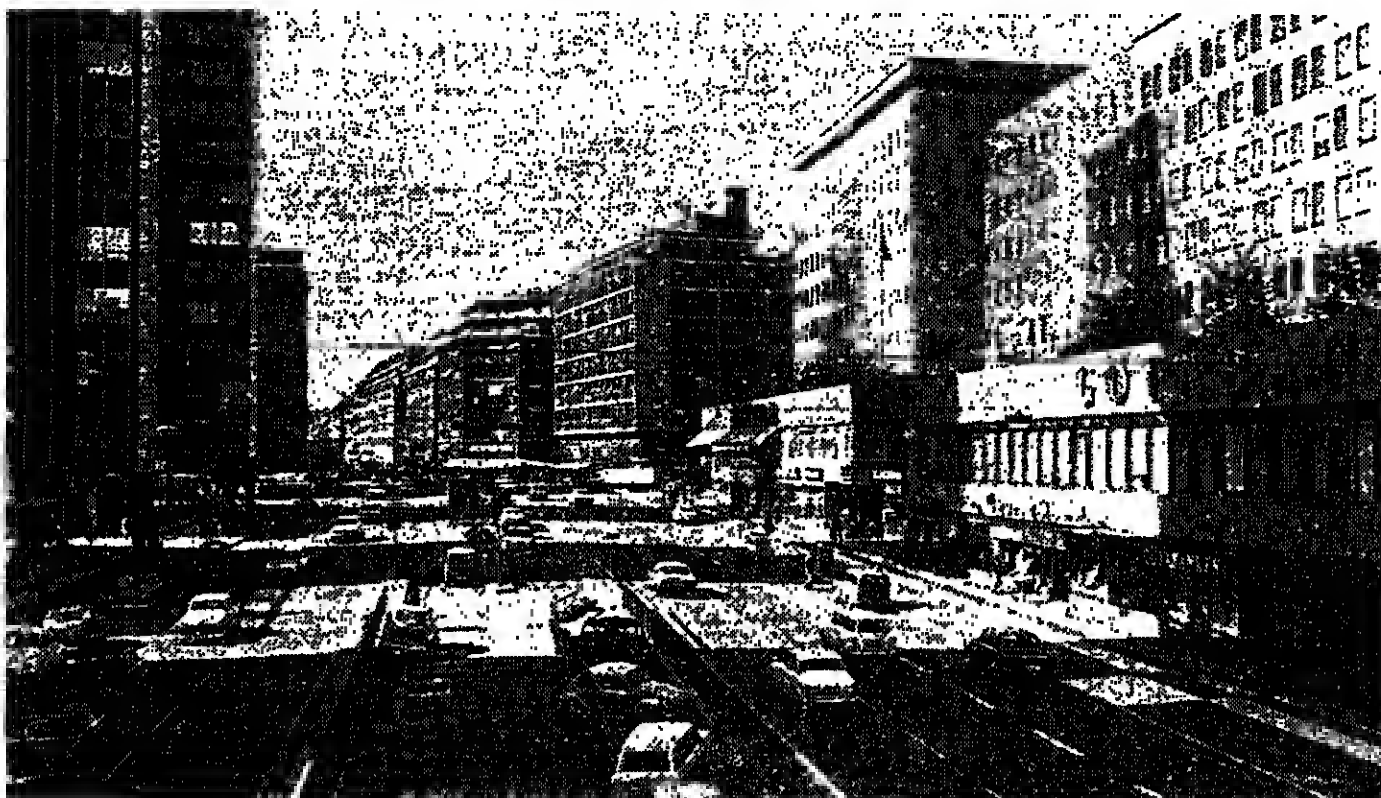
But there is one remark made by Doctor "Superman" Salter that interests me particularly. "Relatively primitive societies," he said, "were able to achieve such engineering feats as the Pyramids with a much that I wish him no harm. But the New Yorker's solution may yet turn out to be cheaper than his, if nothing else."

teristics of the Pyramids were that they were built with slave labour and served no useful purpose of any kind. The Washington *Whizzkid* would, I am sure, disclaim any wish to emulate the Pharaohs in respect of the first of these attributes, and strenuously deny that his project resembles theirs in respect of the second, but it was, after all, he who made the comparison, not I.

All in all, I think that the Bakerloo has some way to go before it is entirely superseded by the Salterloo, and I am content to leave Doc Hurryalong there's proposal to history. In doing so, I may perhaps conclude with the story of an encounter a friend of mine had on his first visit to New York. He wished to travel by Tube (the New York one goes at considerably less than 14,000 miles an hour, but in his inexperience he referred to it not as the "subway", which is what New Yorkers call it, but by the name he was used to in England. "Can you tell me," he said to a burly passer-by on Fifth Avenue, "how I get to the underground?" The stranger looked at him for a moment in hostility and amusement, then offered that was presumably the only solution to my friend's problem that he could see: "Drop dead." My compliments to Dr Salter, and I assure him that I wish him no harm. But the New Yorker's solution may yet turn out to be cheaper than his, if nothing else.

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Falling trade and astronomical taxation have hit hard The storm that has burst over Sweden



The financial centre of Stockholm: recession has played only a part in reducing the world's highest living standards

Sweden remained neutral during the two Great Wars. Indeed, it has enjoyed peace since 1814. Spared the ravages of wars and invasions, the country had rare and favourable conditions for achieving prosperity. It did.

Aided by the long peace, rich in deposits of high-grade iron ore; having vast forests serving as a base for a profitable paper and pulp industry; abundant water power; a hard-working and unfrivolous population; industrial leaders fostered in the harsh and unforgiving climate of free enterprise and merciless international competition and, for close on half a century, a succession of social democratic governments which, for a considerable time, showed skill, moderation, and wisdom, Sweden achieved one of the highest living standards in the world.

But the fair weather eventually ended and the storm burst in 1975-76. The Swedish balance of payments became unfavourable, the crown was devalued and the standard of living stagnated. What were the reasons?

The answer seems to be that the international recession played a part, but that a number of trends combined to create an entirely new situation. Swedish exports of iron ore no longer fetch the prices they used to. Cheaper, higher-quality ore is now available in other parts of the world. The demand for paper, pulp, and timber has fallen, though this may be a transitional phenomenon.

Sweden used to be one of the world's largest shipbuilders. But the demand for ships in general, and tankers in particular, has fallen and the shipbuilding industry is severely hit.

The turn of the tide here was the oil crisis, which has had some extremely severe consequences. Sweden now imports 30 million tonnes a year. The cost is around 11,500 million crowns, nearly 8,000 million more than would have been the case had the pre-1972 prices prevailed.

Sweden has to export more, or import less, to cover the oil price explosion, or borrow, which is what it actually does.

The impact of these negative factors has been strengthened by increased competition from new or reconstructed industries in Europe, Japan, and in

a number of developing countries.

All these economic facts were perhaps unavoidable. They are, however, not the sole explanation. Sweden has managed to produce a number of home-bred problems of mainly political origin.

The socialists reigned for 44 years. Gradually they became blessed with a divine conviction of their own infallibility. What was good for the Social Democratic Party was supposed to be good for Sweden. Smugness set in, as the great leaders of the early years of struggle and victory vanished from the scene.

To stay in power, the socialists had to resort to increasingly extravagant promises, particularly in the field of social welfare. At the beginning of socialist rule in Sweden—and I believe this holds true for many countries—a normal increase in productivity and wages could be supplemented or even accelerated by some redistribution of income, improved social welfare and medical aid. This became increasingly bad to dry up at some point.

Taxes rose to astronomical levels as social security and other public expense increased. In 1977 the "tax-equinox" was August 4. Up till that date all went to the state. What was earned in the remaining five months, minus four days, was "le beau reste", for individuals and corporations. The capacity to pay was curtailed by a fall in productivity, largely due to a spate of new regulations, particularly in the field of industrial relations.

The trade unions had the extravagant idea of creating workers' funds by taking over—free of charge—huge sections of industrial ownership; the side-effects of such ambitions and of heavy taxation, as well as the immediate rise in marginal taxes and the psychological chain-reactions of hopes and ideas of a brave new world of unassailable equality; constant increases in productivity and welfare, and a rapidly diminishing need to work and save—all of this contributed to the economic decline of the Swedish welfare state.

The 60 per cent of the total national income that the government and local authorities have at their disposal has, obviously, facilitated a vast welfare programme and waste. There has been a constant increase in public sector employment. In 1977 it reached 1.4 million people, out of a total of 3.8 million actively employed—a super-dose of bureaucracy sapping the vitality and resources of productive enterprise.

Public expenditure for health—a "heavy" item—increased to nearly 7 per cent of the G.D.P. Total health expenditure in Sweden is now roughly 7.5 per cent of G.D.P., about the same as that of America.

But in the United States only 3 per cent of it is public expenditure. Another comparison: total expenditure on health in Switzerland is around 5 per cent, but public expenditure only around 3.5 per cent.

With productivity lagging, rapid increases in wages, rising social costs, a heavier tax burden on individuals and industry, and deteriorating terms of trade, Sweden has gradually priced itself out of the world market in a number of important sectors.

The situation was further aggravated by the fatal blunder committed in 1973 to tie the Swedish crown to the German mark. Exports suffered, imports increased and one industry after another had to resort to the government for loans and subsidies to maintain employment.

Some 10,000 million crowns a year are distributed in the form of subsidies to money-losing state enterprises and industries for this purpose.

The fight for socialist survival also had repercussions on the foreign policy of Sweden, which should be kept in a key, be carried out with a certain dignity, and appear morally and intellectually honest. This is the line Sweden has tried to follow during its long period of peace.

But a change took place during the last decade of socialist government. Foreign policy became increasingly a tool of domestic politics, a means of strengthening the social democratic power machine. With commendable rectitude, dictators and right-wing regimes were condemned.

Far less was said about the terrors of left-wing govern-

ments, and countries like Cuba were considered worthy of receiving Swedish aid.

In spite of all socialist promises, propaganda and pressure, the verdict of the electorate was clear; and socialist rule could eventually only be maintained through communist support. In the 1976 election, the socialists lost and a centre, Conservative Liberal coalition took over. Rarely has a government started its term of office under less auspicious circumstances and in a now hostile climate, by the left-orientated radio and television.

What the present government should look at are:

the absence—mainly due to the inordinately high tax burden—of sufficient local funds to work more for more pay (unwillingness to move to new locations for better jobs, the incredible statistics of absenteeism);

the relative structural petrification of Swedish industry at a time when change and adaptation to new conditions (primarily new competitive forces in world markets) are clearly called for;

the waste and inefficiency of a state apparatus absorbing around 40 per cent of current income (for example unnecessary waste in medical aid and state-owned industries, in education and transfer payments);

a wage level out of tune with world economic realities.

Unsubstantiated, Sweden will go through some difficult years, but the country is rich, the people are fundamentally sound, hardworking and pragmatic. The trade unions have a tradition of strength and dignity, and ultimately a sound approach. Many national virtues were forgotten in the past five to ten years. But common sense may return.

The biggest party, the Social Democratic Party, obviously has to play a constructive role, even in opposition. The party needs a leadership bent not upon tactical manoeuvring, but upon the guidance of a statesman of courage, character and common sense.

Such a change is, unfortunately, not in sight. The quality of the present centre Conservative Liberal Government, is on the whole high, and provided that it has enough time—which means more than one three-year period in office—there is every reason to believe that Sweden eventually will regain her place as one of the better governed, more fortunate, more prosperous countries of the world.

C. H. von Platen

Doing things in the Conservative way

Sir Ian Gilmour's second article on Conservatism and ideology.

Extremes meet, as Coleridge said. And there was some common ground between left-wing reactions to my book and some of the more right-wing reviewers on the nature of Conservatism. The left seemed to be saying that, since I think that Conservatism is not an ideology, there is no Conservative theory and in effect therefore no such thing as Conservatism. The further right seemed to agree that no ideological Conservatism is nothing or is mere opportunism, suggesting that true or real Conservatism is in some sense ideological.

So the first key question seems to be: Is Conservatism an ideology? There is some confusion about the meaning of ideology as readers of *The Times* will know. But in the words of Professor Oakeshott, an ideology is "a system of abstract ideas"—not just some ideas but a system of abstract ideas.

A constant theme of almost all the great Conservative writers has been that Conservatives should shun abstractions. Burke is called "the bocus-pocus of abstraction", and pointed out that no rational man governs himself "by abstractions and universals".

He censured a university professor who might be able to deal in abstractions with a statesman who always had to take "circumstances" into consideration, and who, if he did not, was "not erroneous, but stark mad". Halifax, the treasurer, said much the same thing. So did Coleridge and Disraeli, while Salisbury said he would like to make political abstractions a criminal offence.

Moreover, Conservatives have an acute sense of the limitations of human reason. Above all, they see what appalling damage and suffering have been caused by ideologies and by systems. So there is an overriding concern against ideological Conservatism being ideological. And this is borne out by Conservative practice over the last century and a half. The circumstances have varied, and so naturally Tory policies have varied, too.

Granted, then, that Conservatism is not an ideology, is it anything else? Or is it merely the practice of the Conservative Party?

Here we come to a crucial distinction: the distinction between an ideology and a theory. I was called by one reviewer "the ideologist of non-ideology". But with the best will in the world it is not possible to be that. You cannot erect an abstract system of ideas which says that all systems of abstract ideas are wrong and dangerous—and that would be that position of an ideologist of non-ideology.

It is, however, perfectly possible to hold a theory which is an ideology, and which distrusts abstract thought. And that of course is what virtually all Tory thinkers have done. Their theories have been grounded in practice. Burke was not opposed to theory as such. What he spoke against was theory, he said, "I mean always a weak, erroneous, fallacious, unfounded or imperfect theory; and one of the ways of discovering that it is a false theory is by comparing it with practice."

That is what all Conservative thinkers should do. They have seen that all ideologies are wrong, and that Conservative policies vary or should vary according to the circumstances of the time. They therefore construct a theory which takes these fundamental factors into account. Because the theory is not, as we have seen, ideological, it is not rigid and it is not all embracing.

But it has various strands which are perennial, though their relation to each other and their strength vary. These are: balance and moderation, freedom, patriotism, national unity, one nation, authority, continuity, the rule of law, the improvement of social and economic conditions, as well of course as the overriding importance of "circumstances".

These themes are, for a Conservative, not abstractions. Thus Conservatives think and talk not of freedom in general, but of certain particular freedoms.

And they are well aware that these freedoms have to be reconciled with authority, and that the powers and functions of the state must not be so attenuated that it is incapable of preserving the loyalty of its citizens.

Because of its belief in balance and moderation, Conservatism's adherence to freedom avoids the excesses of Liberalism.

Conservative thinking always grounded in practice and pays regard to the facts. This is far more satisfactory than ideological thinking which brushes facts aside. The answer to our second question, therefore, is that not being an ideology, so far from making Conservatism nothing, makes the most sensible way of looking at political problems.

The final question is: Is the centrism to be deplored in the way it always leaves the initiative in politics to our opponents? The idea that Conservative moderation has this consequence seems to be based upon a misreading of history and upon at least one misconception. The cause of European conservatism was not pushed by the Tory moderate, nor by the right wing, still less by the Socialists.

More generally it is quite mistaken to regard the quest for a centrist slide as socialism. With the admitted very important exception of nationalization, the foundations of the post-war consensus which lasted until 1971 was laid by Churchill's post-war coalition. And it was not socialist consensus.

One of the most striking developments of the post-war years has been the enormous expansion of home ownership. Does anybody think that this is or was a socialist policy?

Experience then refutes the proposition that Tory centrism surrenders the political initiative to the socialists. Nor does moderation mean that new ideas cannot be put forward. *The Right Approach*, published in 1976, was a splendidly moderate document, and it was full of non-socialist ideas. The second misconception is that new ideas can only be put forward by politicians or parties. In fact, the ideas are at least as much the conveyors of opinion as the creators. In any case, as Burke said, "compromises are the very condition of existence."

As to the charge that modern Toryism or centrism spells opposition to the realization of the essential point that you cannot carry out your policies unless you win an election is to be an opportunist, then I plead guilty.

But what Dr Hayek (a leading other call opportunism is, from a Tory point of view, a mere Conservative paying proper attention to "circumstances". Let us take the closed shop as an example. I do not think any Conservative could like the closed shop. Opinion is merely divided as to when those who would like to abolish it now and those who would like to abolish it later should do so. Yet the last Act of this kind passed to abolish the closed shop did not succeed in doing so, and has instead led to the "closed shop" in a new form.

No doubt the party's refusal to have the closed shop abolished is called opportunistic. To me it is just common sense. Retention of the closed shop is a necessary condition for the party's survival. It is not a necessary condition for the party's survival. It is not a necessary condition for the party's survival.

But that is what all Conservative thinkers should do. They have seen that all ideologies are wrong, and that Conservative policies vary or should vary according to the circumstances of the time. They therefore construct a theory which takes these fundamental factors into account. Because the theory is not, as we have seen, ideological, it is not rigid and it is not all embracing.

But it has various strands which are perennial, though their relation to each other and their strength vary. These are: balance and moderation, freedom, patriotism, national unity, one nation, authority, continuity, the rule of law, the improvement of social and economic conditions, as well of course as the overriding importance of "circumstances".

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THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

Natural history lesson for Brigitte Bardot

Now we know what lay behind that cryptic remark darkly uttered by Brigitte Bardot in Strasbourg a few weeks ago: "When the problem of the seals is settled, I will take up other causes."

One cause emerges as a campaign to stop an administrative centre going up in Mlle Bardot's home resort of St Tropez. I hope she has more success with that than she has had with trying to stop the killing of Newfoundland seals. She could scarcely have less.

Mlle Bardot, being Mlle Bardot, diverted attention from the main business at the Strasbourg meeting of the Council of Europe, which was to talk seals. Some councillors thought she turned the event into a circus. Sour grapes, others thought.

I have now seen the full text of a letter which Mr Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, sent Mlle Bardot. It is, of course, off the Trudeau shores that the killings can end. The premier is so patient with

the lady that you almost see him biting his tongue. There are reined-in phrases like: "The outward appearance of a phenomenon may often elicit emotions which bear little relation to hard facts." "The scene on the ice floes is not pretty, but neither is the scene in slaughterhouses and farmyards."

"The question has to be examined in the broader context of the evolutionary process."

Still awaiting a reply is Mr Trudeau's rhetorical question: "The hunt relieves a great deal of poverty, is carried out humanely and does not endanger the species. This being the case, what possible reason could the Government invoke to ban the seal hunt?"

Another unanswered question is: Will Mlle Bardot be at the Saroy next Monday when Frank Moore, the premier of Newfoundland, and a high-powered pro-seal killing lobby meet the press and state their case?



Juan Tripp is honorary director of Pan Am. The fact does not deter customers from buying return tickets.

An arty lady's vital statistics

Every taxpayer should read this story, especially if he has forgotten that he is a patron of the arts.

The Arts Council, tax-sustained and in my opinion worth every penny it squeezes out of me, has appointed its very first press officer. Times being what they are, she is a woman, and her name is Susan Rose.

I rejoice to tell you she is a former reporter, which should mean she will cut through bureaucracy like a hot knife through butter, and will give you (through me and others like me) the facts you should know about what is happening to your hard-earned cash.

She is going to be strong on statistics. For example, she tells me that so far, 80,000 people have seen the Art Council's Dada exhibition at the Hayward Gallery, that 90 per cent were aged under 35 and the largest single group were women, aged 15 to 25.



An unidentified flying object

A mysterious trophy designed in the early 1920s for a long-forgotten international air race which was grounded for lack of funds, has been unearthed in darkest Yorkshire.

The RAF Museum at Hendon has been unable to trace its origin and now the owner, Clifford Seed, a 77-year-old industrial property investor, is appealing for help from PHS readers.

Mr Seed, who has refused a replica of the Schneider

As you were

The £100m rebuilding programme at Gatwick airport is now nearing completion but I gather that moves, first made three years ago, to change its name to Winston Churchill International are still unlikely to succeed.

The British Airports Authority, impressed by the charisma of Charles de Gaulle International airport and John F Kennedy airport, has decided to change its name to Winston Churchill International.

As you were

The £100m rebuilding programme at Gatwick airport is now nearing completion but I gather that moves, first made three years ago, to change its name to Winston Churchill International are still unlikely to succeed.

A guide for flutterers

The best bet for flutterers and blunders is the new £100m rebuilding programme at Gatwick airport.

At blackjack, £99.20 is paid out on a bet of £1.00. At roulette, the return is £29.00 on a bet of £1.00. At craps, the return is £29.00 on a bet of £1.00.

Even this is better than reported on the races, where the odds are often as high as 100 to 1.

Sir Richard Blythe, the Queen's physician, had an even better bet for every morning than usual yesterday at Buckingham Palace. Two of the Queen's horses, who were also likely to be the winners of the race, were the Queen's horses, who were also likely to be the winners of the race.



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E BISHOP'S MOVE

Muzorewa has returned Salisbury conference on "national solution", and the gap that has opened between him and the other was considered wide, if compromise has not taken. For the other parties, Mr Smith, Mr Sir Chief Chirau, there is no settlement without the United National Congress, the Bishop leads and has by far the largest following, could qualify for recognition on the side Dr Owen tentatively y 2. Failure to agree would pass the initiative to the Patriotic Front leaders, Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe. In effect that settlement would have the educative influence, of the next phase in the struggle.

UANC was against it: such a regime would be stigmatised as a stooge from the first. So the Bishop holds the highest card in Salisbury. But that does not mean he has the highest card of all. He has a real incentive to agree eventually, for if the internal talks fail, he would lose his relevance. His leverage is in Rhodesia, not outside it. In opposition to any scheme patched together by the other parties, he would logically become an ally, albeit a passive one, of the Patriotic Front. His followers would boycott any constitution he did not accept, and would increasingly fear to compromise themselves with the possible Patriotic Front regime that would win in the end. By the same token the Rhodesian commanders must know that unless the mass support of the UANC is behind the settlement their problems will get progressively worse, instead of, as they must hope of a settlement, gradually better. But the UANC leaders would have no part to play in the revolutionary regime that would ultimately emerge.

There is thus a convergence of interest developing in Salisbury in favour of agreement. It is difficult to follow the sucking of the two sides, but the fact that Mr Smith feels he cannot sell anything to the whites which does not provide for 28 white seats elected on a separate white roll to the proposed parliament of 100. The Bishop, however, will only concede 20 seats, and requires the other eight to be elected on a common roll, which would make these white members in effect representatives of the blacks, though they would have a useful mediatory role. But the Bishop reported to be ready to allow the 20 specially elected members to constitute a blocking mechanism on constitutional change, which would seem to meet white fears in principle. But to the arguments on electoral mechanisms must be added the Bishop's reservations over the security forces under a black regime—the extent of the use of ex-military in a National army, and the standing-down of certain white units unacceptable to black prestige and feelings. This is probably more important to white feelings of security than blocking mechanisms. But if the Bishop is leaning towards this facet of the Anglo-American formula, there may be another chance for Dr Owen and Ambassador Young to play a role when the difficulties are clearer. They have a representative in Salisbury and the time may come when developments there make another ministerial visit worthwhile.

RADITION FOR POLITICAL CRIMES

ing the second reading ill which clears the way for the United States of America to the European Convention on the Suppression of Lord Harris of Green- that what is proposed was derogates from our grant political asylum", a surprising claim, and surprisingly it passed un- in the ensuing debate. ne thing is clear about it is that a limit is in the generally with ie courts may refuse a for extradition for the hat the alleged offence political character. That may be, probably is, But let it not be that no limitation is ated.

do provide, however, that a fugitive need not be handed over if there are substantial grounds for supposing that the requisition for his surrender is made with a view to prosecuting or punishing him on account of his race, religion, nationality or political opinions, or if his position might be prejudiced for any of these reasons. If so, the convention requires, and that Bill paves the way for, the fugitive's prosecution in extra-territorial proceedings by the state refusing extradition.

claim for non-extradition, but because his crime was believed to be justified in the name of liberty by the repressive nature of the regime he opposed. The courts have never managed to give a definitive meaning to "political crime", but they have not lost sight of the original intentions of the legislators. Nor will it do for Lord Harris to say that all is well since the provisions of the Bill apply only in respect of countries making up the Council of Europe—democracies all, in whose systems of justice we can have confidence. The extradition provisions do not extend only to the requesting state's own nationals or to crimes committed out of hostility to its own political institutions. They could apply also to offenders from third countries seeking to strike a political blow against their oppressors back home or even to escape from their clutches. It cannot be assumed that in all such cases all convention countries would always take the same view of culpability as would be taken in the United Kingdom.

It could very well be argued, and the argument is hard to resist, that the menace of international terrorism is so dark that some curtailment of the traditional exercise of political asylum is now called for in the context of western Europe, if that curtailment is of appreciable assistance in meeting the threat. But it would be lamentable if, in England of all places, the enabling legislation were to pass through Parliament without any debate, or even recognition, of the conflict of principles which it entails.

LSBOURG, LUXEMBOURG OR BRUSSELS?

European Community have enough problems here is now a serious reworking over where the Parliament should sit. moment its plenary lternate between Stras- Luxembourg, its com- meet mainly in Brussels, 1,500 members of its work in Luxembourg, n is very inconvenient sive but it is just tol- e there are only 198 members. It will not e when Britain joins, there are 410 directly nbers with their, assistants and lobby- rhaps more journalists ing members of the static and fairly large e necessary.

The decision on the seat of the parliament is formally in the hands of member governments. The present peripatetic system was agreed by the Six in the mid-sixties and any change would require the agreement of existing members. Therefore one or two determined objectors might be able to prevent change. But a new directly elected parliament will be a powerful force in its own right and it will not easily be compelled to wander the streets of Europe against its will, no matter what decisions are taken now.

arians to find ways of asserting their will, such as refusing to approve money for moving the sessions to places they do not like. And they would be right. There is no sufficient reason why member governments should tell a directly elected parliament where to sit. If the rules say otherwise the rules should be changed, for they were made under different circumstances. It ought to be within the competence of any self-respecting parliament to decide where it shall sit. The European parliament may therefore have to make this one of the first issues in which it flexes its muscles. At the same time national politics cannot be wholly excluded from these matters. Nor should Luxembourg's dependence on the presence of Community officials be brushed aside. A compromise ought to be possible under which the Community disperses more of those offices and functions which need not be so closely tied to Brussels. Meanwhile it will not have escaped notice that France and Luxembourg seem to be contemplating just the sort of un-European behaviour for which the British are usually in the dock.

in for adults
essor Robert W. Steel
reported on February 4
Dr Edward Parkes, the
man of the University
committee, that universities
are increasingly into the
adult education, pri-
just for those between
side universities towards
ing education is likely
turn on basic changes
iversities in accepted
wards the role that uni-
uld play.
working hours may pro-
unities as well as prob-

lems: but opportunities are likely to be lost without general acceptance that in the field of continuing education universities will be open to all who can profit from what they have to offer. We hope that it may become accepted by society as normal for people to take university courses of varying lengths—a week, a term, or a year—periodically during their lives, and that career structures will be geared to allow for this. Some may be post-experience or "refresher" courses: some may offer refreshment in a wider sense and the chance to study new subjects and to cultivate broader interests. For those who wish there may be opportunities to build their studies into a structure leading to a degree or other qualifications.

courses offer refreshment not only in a subject but in a style of thinking. Strong links between teaching and research may sometimes be most easily maintained in continuing education courses in which there are no set syllabuses, so that university lecturers are in that respect freer to teach what interests them most. Our hope is that society may come to accept not only the distinctive brand of continuing education that universities have to offer but also its availability to all who are able to profit from it.

document of 1936 as stating that there could be no adequate manpower policy in war-time without "a general recognition of the issue before the country". This is what the Oxford vote was trying to say three years earlier.

to 10; mainly because of resentment at the appearance of Raulph Churchill. During his brief sojourn at the University he had not made much of a mark in the Union; it was not for him, it was felt, to come down to the Union in order to rebuke us for being naughty and to demand that we recant our sinful words.

Electricity bills
From Lady Simpson
Sir, The account on February 9 by Pat Healy of the family in Brent who owe £1,174 for electricity makes disturbing reading.

Past a joke
From Mr R. Hinchliffe
Sir, The recent investiture produced the usual transports of imprudent capers which comedians feel compelled to engage in the instant they are interviewed by press and television.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The politics of race and immigration

From Lord Murray of Gravesend and Mr Jack Barnett
Sir, Almost exactly 15 years ago we were, respectively, the prospective Labour and Liberal parliamentary candidates for the Gravesend constituency. Attempts were made by people outside the constituency to inflame local feeling against recently arrived immigrants from India and Pakistan, mainly by provocative letters to the local newspapers. On being approached, the sitting member, Mr Peter Kirk, did not hesitate to join in a joint statement condemning these activities.

ted minority groups, identification with the aggressor. This syndrome enabled the Germans to administer the concentration camps with relative ease.

Our appeal received some notice nationally as well as locally and our example was repeated in a number of other constituencies. Some time later, on the initiative of the local Labour Party a Community Relations Advisory Service was set up with the ready cooperation of the other two parties. From then on election neither race nor immigration was an electoral issue in the Gravesend Division. This was of course not true in other parts of the country where the all-party approach was not followed or deliberately ignored.

Prejudice against coloureds in this country has been endemic for many centuries, but the coloured immigrants (for would-be immigrants) are no more responsible for generating racial prejudice here than were the Polish Jews in Vienna or the bicycle riders in Berlin.

From Dr George Fink
Sir, Professor Hayek's assertion (The Times, February 11) that it was the influx of Polish Jews which "changed the attitude" of Vienna society is as offensive as it is facile. Antisemitism in Austria was (and perhaps still is) endemic. The cause for the surge of antisemitic activity in the early 1930s was complex, but the most significant factor was surely the rapid development in nearby Germany of the concept that vigorous antisemitic activity was the hallmark of a good patriot. Indeed, the events in Germany provide the evidence which demolishes Hayek's thesis.

The rise of Hitler
From Lord Kaldor, FBA
Sir, Professor Hayek (February 11) seems to forget that the main factor responsible for the rise of Hitler to power was not the immigration of Jews into Germany (which was negligible) but the increase of unemployment from 10,000 in 1928 to seven million in the summer of 1932. For the latter the blame lies with the "monetarist" policies of the German Chancellor, Dr Brüning and his resolute refusal, on the well known advice of German economists, to take any positive steps to reflate the economy.

Towards Christian unity
From Sir John Lawrence
Sir, It gladdens my heart that so many of your correspondents see intercommunion as a question of principle and not of sentiment or convenience. Do not some of them prove too much for their own case?

proceed from a lack of principle. By no means. They proceed from different and better principles which were laid down by the Second Vatican Council. Even that may not be the last word but it must be the starting point.

The 'no fight' resolution
From Sir Neil Pritchard
Sir, May I offer a footnote on the "King and Country" Oxford Union debate?

From Lord Greenwood of Rossendale
Sir, In his article (February 11) on a recent radio debate about the Oxford Union in the 30s Mr Angelou expresses regret that, "for good reasons" he has no doubt, I could not participate in the programme. He was perfectly right. I was not invited.

Effects of child pornography

From Professor Ivor H. Mills
Sir, The mass media seem to have succeeded in whipping up a state of near mass hysteria on the subject of child pornography. Before we convert half the law-abiding parents in this country into criminals for possessing photographs or films of their nude children, may I plead for a more rational look at the facts.

very different from the oft-repeated view that pornography in general is damaging to children. Apart from the effect of intercourse, and especially rape, in a prepubertal girl, the evidence is surprisingly difficult to find.

When you do so you cannot help but be struck by how normally they develop. It is true that one girl attempted suicide but she was one who succeeded in frustrating the lodger by wearing jeans all the time, aided by an occasional slap in the face. The strain of resisting him was too, but only one, of the factors that got her down and led to her taking an overdose. A few years later she was happily married and now has a family. Her sister, who yielded to the man, seemed little affected by it though she "knew it was wrong".

Sex is something that children need to be educated about but, surely, only in the context of social responsibility. Thus educated, preferably by their parents, they are well able to withstand contact with the minor deviances which is all the majority will ever meet in life.

Future of Belize

From Professor Norman Hammond
Sir, Britain acquired the territory comprising Belize during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries as a result of the inability of the Spanish Crown to defend its American empire. Mexico and Guatemala, together with the rest of Central America, obtained their independence of Spain for the same reason, Guatemala in 1821. Belize is thus a "successor state" to Spain on the same terms of forcible disengagement as these other countries, and the Guatemalan claim on Belize has no more validity than any she might press on Mexico. El Salvador or Honduras, her other neighbours. The British effort in the last century to buy off Guatemala's sporadic claims with the promise of a road has now befallen the fate of all appeasement—failure.

oppression and the Caste War in Yucatan, who came to the then British Honduras to find peace and tolerance under the British Crown. Although these Maya, the Mopan, Kekchi and Yucatec peoples, have close relatives across the borders in Guatemala and Mexico, I know from working and talking with them throughout this decade that they have no desire for Guatemalan suzerainty.

Interference in Africa

From Lord Aldenham
Sir, Referring to your leader on Tuesday, February 7, I would like to refer to two sentences which I think might be applied to the activities of Dr Owen and Mr Young in their discussions with Messrs Mugabe and Mubanga.

Philosophy of science

From Dr Robert A. Reid
Sir, Leapsman in America asks why scientists always make disclaimers, why their work is never definitive and why there is always more to be done. He concludes that this is a strategy to maintain funding.

Electricity bills

From Lady Simpson
Sir, The account on February 9 by Pat Healy of the family in Brent who owe £1,174 for electricity makes disturbing reading.

Past a joke

From Mr R. Hinchliffe
Sir, The recent investiture produced the usual transports of imprudent capers which comedians feel compelled to engage in the instant they are interviewed by press and television.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 14: The Prince of Wales, on behalf of the Queen, held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, The Parachute Regiment, this afternoon received General Sir Roland Gills upon relinquishing his appointment as Colonel Commandant, The Parachute Regiment, and Lieutenant-General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley on his assumption of this appointment.

The Prince of Wales was present at this evening at a Reception given by the Royal College of Surgeons of England at the Royal College, Lincoln's Inn Fields, to mark the 250th Anniversary of John Hunter.

His Royal Highness was received upon arrival by the President (Mr R. Murley).

The Right Hon Sir Philip Moore and Captain Timothy Ward were in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 14: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, accompanied by The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present at a Gala Performance of Ballet given in aid of the Royal Ballet Benevolent Fund at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

The Dowager Viscountess Hambleton and Captain Alastair Aird were in attendance.

South American visit
The Prince of Wales is to pay an official visit to Brazil and Venezuela from March 7 to 23, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

Birthdays today
Sir Max Aitken, 68; Sir Harold Bealey, 69; Sir Stephen Brown, 72; Air Vice-Marshal Gerard Combe, 76; Sir Douglas Howard, 81; Mrs Joan Wood, 81; Mrs Humphreys, 77; The Earl of Mar and Kellie, 57; Sir George Taylor, 74; Professor Sir Harold Thompson, 70; the Rev R. W. Woods, 64; Colonel Sir Arthur Young, 71.

Latest appointments
Latest appointments include:
Lord Dunsfoss, aged 52, Counsellor at the British Embassy in Brussels, to be British High Commissioner to Fiji, in succession to Mr J. S. Arthur, who will be taking up a further diplomatic appointment.

Major-General R. L. S. Greco, a Vice-President of the Ordnance Board, to be President, in succession to Air Vice-Marshal P. M. S. Healdland.

Brigadier A. F. W. Maclellan, to be President of the Regular Commissions Board in the rank of Major-General, in succession to Major-General A. G. C. Jones, who is to retire.

Brigadier (Colonel Major-General) I. B. Baker, to be Assistant Chief of the General Staff (Operations Requirements), in the rank of Major-General, in succession to Major-General H. E. Roper, who is to retire.

Dr Gordon Pike, director of occupational safety, Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents, to be director of finance and administration, Mr Ian Abbot, in succession to Mr Robert Douce, senior executive with the Royal Society, to be director of public relations.

New European prize goes to Ironbridge museum

By Philip Howard

At a ceremony in Strasbourg last night Mr Roy Jenkins presented the first European Museum of the Year Award to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, which has a just claim to be the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution.

The second prize went to the Joan Miro Foundation at Barcelona, a centre of contemporary art and general Catalan culture.

The museum, which is the world of western Europe attended the first such convention, for which the host was M. Pierre Frimlin, the mayor of Strasbourg and former French Prime Minister. Mr Neil Cossons, the director of Ironbridge, received a cheque for £4,000 and the bronze trophy sculpted by Henry Moore. The Spanish art centre received £1,000.

The award, supported by the Council of Europe and the International Council of Museums, attracted 32 entries from all over Western Europe, of which nine were short-listed. The prize money was given by IBM Europe.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. de P. G. Mayhew and Miss D. A. Parker
The engagement is announced between John de P. G. Mayhew, elder son of the late Sir John Dixon Mayhew, JP, and Lady Mayhew, of Newton Hall, Dunmow, Essex, and Dorothy Ann Parker, of 50 Gloucester Mews, London, W2.

Mr A. J. L. Beare and Miss C. J. M. Elborne
The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robin Beare, of Scraggs Farm, Cowden, Kent, and Charlotte, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Elborne, of 20 Ranelagh Avenue, London, SW6.

Mr M. C. Frangos and Miss G. M. Zülke
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr Theodore Frangos, of Kingston, Surrey, and of the late Mrs Mary Frangos, and Gabrielle, daughter of Mr Herbert Zülke and of Mrs Milly Zülke, of New Isenburg, West Germany.

Mr D. R. Sheephanks and Miss M. G. Ullin
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Captain and Mrs R. J. Sheephanks, of The Rookery, Eyke, Woodbridge, Suffolk, and Monica, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Ullin, of Stockholm, Sweden.

Luncheon
Luncheon of Commerce and Industry
Mr Geoffrey Wood, treasurer of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, presided at a luncheon held at the Savoy Hotel yesterday in honour of Mr Albert Bonney, Secretary of State for Employment.

Constitutional Club
Sir Keith Joseph, MP, was entertained at luncheon yesterday by members of the Constitutional Club. Mr G. S. Beche, chairman of the club, presided.

Receptions
Royal College of Surgeons of England
The Prince of Wales last night attended a reception at the Royal College of Surgeons of England held as part of the celebrations to mark the 250th anniversary of John Hunter. He was received by the President, Mr Reginald Murley, and Mrs Murley. Those present were the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, members of the court of patrons, members of council and fellows of the college.

Royal College of Physicians
Sir Douglas Black, President of the Royal College of Physicians, presided at a reception held at the college yesterday evening for members of the Medical Journalists' Association.

Dinners
Parliamentary delegation to Jamaica
The Jamaican High Commissioner and Mrs Wint were the chief guests at a dinner given in their honour at the House of Commons yesterday by the parliamentary delegation to Jamaica.

25 years ago
From The Times of Friday, February 13, 1953

£7 6s 6d for miners
By Our Labour Correspondent
About £200 a day wage men in the coal industry are to receive an increase in pay of 6s a week from their next pay day under an agreement concluded yesterday between the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers. The miners' leaders have agreed to recommend that the agreement for working day shifts should be renewed when it expires at the end of April, and this assurance is believed to have done much to cause the board to reconsider its earlier refusal to grant a general pay advance to day-wage men. The new national minimum wage rates are 17s 6d for underground and 16s 6d for surface workers. The increases in wages in pay which will be given to juvenile workers are expected to cost the industry £6m a year. The National Coal Board has also announced a serious financial deficit in the first three quarters of last year and the total loss for the year is expected to be about £5m.

Mr P. J. Kirkley and Miss J. S. Woolcock
The engagement is announced between Paul, second son of Sir Leslie and Lady Kirkley, of Oxford, and Janet, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. R. Woolcock, of Stubbington, Hampshire.

Mr C. M. Botting and Miss S. A. M. Rushbury
The engagement is announced between Christopher Michael, son of Mr and Mrs R. D. J. Botting, of Wentworth, Surrey, and Sharon Margaret, daughter of Mr and Mrs T. J. Rushbury, of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr C. A. G. Gore Langton and Miss S. F. Collins
The engagement is announced between Chandos, elder son of Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs Alaric Gore Langton, of Hatch Park, Bath, Somerset, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bernard Collins, of Pisham Place, Mithurst, Sussex.

Mr C. K. R. Ingham and Miss T. Riggs
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs C. R. Ingham, of St Anne's, Lancashire, and Tanya, daughter of Mr and Mrs Olive Riggs, of Chislehurst, Kent.

Dott A. Lentini and Miss L. E. C. Atkins
The engagement is announced between Alessandro, younger son of Dott Giovanni Lentini, of Signora Letizia Rossi Lentini, of London, Surrey, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs N. C. (Tommy) Atkins, of New Malden, Surrey.

Marriages
Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal
The marriage took place quietly yesterday in London of Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal and Mrs Patricia Middleton, widow of John Middleton.

Mr A. J. Makin and Miss C. M. Hamilton
The marriage took place on February 8 at Lidingö Kyria, Stockholm, between Mr Andrew J. Makin and Countess Maja Brigitte Hamilton.

Mr R. I. West and Miss R. E. C. Clouston
The wedding of the recent marriage between Mr Richard Lawrence West, son of Mr and Mrs A. L. West, of Wye, Kent, and Mrs Rosalie Elizabeth Clouston, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs H. C. R. Liddell-Hewitt, of Thornbury, Bristol, took place at St Oswald's Church, London, on Saturday, February 11.

Today's engagements
The Prince of Wales gives open house at the Royal Palace, Lancaster House, 10.05.
Princess Margaret presents Cartier Diamond Award for Valour, 11.05.
The Duke of Kent, as Patron, attends Institute of Export London, 12.05.
Prince Michael of Kent attends presentation luncheon for 1977 International Award for Valour, 12.05.
Luncheon talks and music: St James's Piccadilly, "Values—series 2", 1.05; Museum of London, London Wall, from village to suburb series, 1.05; Kentish Town, Kentish Town, 1.05; St Margaret, Louthbury, Betty Maison, organ, 1.10.

Latest wills
Sir Reginald Rootes, of Holford, Kent, who with his brother, Lord Rootes, founded the motor car group for those marginal lands. Other estates include (net, before tax; tax not disclosed): Davies, Mr Enoch, of Poole, £24,059; Dunn, Mr Archibald Thomas, of Haddfield, £274,978; Jowitt, Mr Harold Stanley, of Leeds, £1,000,000; Mason, Mr Richard, of Wetherby, company director, £121,492; Wilson, Professor Edward Mervyn, of Cambridge, professor of Spanish, 1953-75, £37,923.

at the end of April, and this assurance is believed to have done much to cause the board to reconsider its earlier refusal to grant a general pay advance to day-wage men. The new national minimum wage rates are 17s 6d for underground and 16s 6d for surface workers. The increases in wages in pay which will be given to juvenile workers are expected to cost the industry £6m a year. The National Coal Board has also announced a serious financial deficit in the first three quarters of last year and the total loss for the year is expected to be about £5m.

Science report

By Nature-Times News Service, 542, 1978

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Mr N. P. Barratt and Miss A. V. Mason
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs Stanley Barratt, of East Molesey, Surrey, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Mason, of Melton, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Mr N. J. Downie and Miss J. A. Walker
The engagement is announced between Nicholas John, elder son of Mr and Mrs A. F. Downie, of Barnes, Surrey, and Josephine, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. W. Walker, of Forest Row, Sussex.

Mr G. W. Guthrie Jones, QC and Mrs J. D. L'Estrange
The engagement is announced between Griffith Winstan Guthrie Jones and Janet, widow of Commander Henry Oweo L'Estrange, DSC, RD, of Culleinstown, Sligo.

Mr J. I. Marks and Mrs C. D. Robson
The engagement is announced between Jeremy John, younger son of Mr and Mrs K. L. Marks, of Higher Huxley Hall, Cheshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. R. Durose and Mrs Durose, of Iretton Wood Hall, Derbyshire.

Mr M. J. Trewheather and Miss J. S. Carpenter
The engagement is announced between Matthew, elder son of Mr and Mrs C. Trewheather, of Epsom, Surrey, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. G. Carpenter, of Baunstead, Surrey.

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Dame Isobel Baillie, the Scottish singer, with the insignia of a DBE which she received at yesterday's investiture.

Collection of English watercolours sell well

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A fine collection of English watercolours, formed in the 1920s and 1930s for a modest outlay, attracted strong bidders at Christie's yesterday. A Francis Towne watercolour, "One of the series of Welsh views executed in 1777, made £5,000 (estimate £3,000 to £5,000) going to A. Reed. The same London dealer paid £5,000 (estimate £2,000 to £3,000) for a Gainsborough drawing, "Buildings near a lake in a wooded landscape". It is done in ink and wash with white and ochre and dates from the mid-1770s.

Other remarkable pieces included a busy street scene by Rowlandson, "Barnes, Middlesex", of 1812 at £5,000 (estimate £3,000 to £5,000). Peter de Wint's "The Old Mill, Weymouth", of 1825, was sold for £2,500 (estimate £1,500 to £2,500). A watercolour by John Constable, "The Great Ouse at Mill Mill, Suffolk", of 1825, was sold for £2,500 (estimate £1,500 to £2,500).

The sale realised £128,225, only one item, a 19th-century watercolour by a Girtin seascape, bought in at £9,500.

The trustees tend to do everything in the name of the Shabbanou's Association, which was set up in 1972 to raise money for the Shabbanou's Association Educational Society, on Monday made £17,255 with 7 per cent undivided. A Girtin seascape bought in at £9,500.

By far the highest auction price on record was a bid for a pearl necklace at £236,086; the triple-pearl necklace of Gulf pearls had been bought in at £14,000. Shabbanou herself. The glamour

likely to be the answer. The ability to make better use of soil copper appears to be controlled by one or several genes located on one of rye's seven chromosomes.

Elsewhere in the world Triticale has proved able to grow in aluminium toxicity in Brazil, which contains six times the amount of aluminium tolerated by wheat. Tritals in the Himalayas also show that its existence was known to wheat at altitudes of 2,000 to 3,000 metres.

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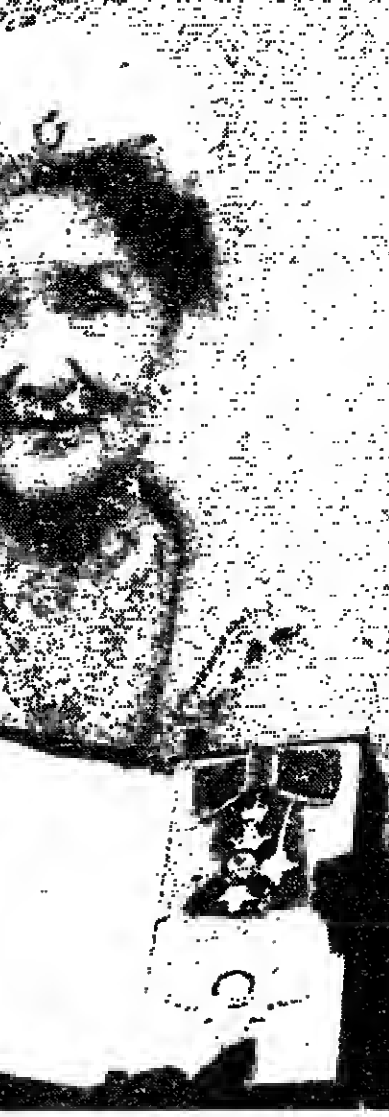
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By Nature-Times News Service, 542, 1978

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By Nature-Times News Service, 542, 1978

By Nature-Times News Service, 542, 1978



Dame Isobel Baillie, the Scottish singer, with the insignia of a DBE which she received at yesterday's investiture.

Science report

By Nature-Times News Service, 542, 1978

By Nature-Times News Service, 542, 1978

By Nature-Times News Service, 542, 1978

By Nature-Times News Service, 542, 1978

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By Nature-Times News Service, 542, 1978

OBITUARY

DR E. A. PERREN

Major role in chemical defence research

Dr Edward Arthur Perren, CB, FRIC, Director of the Chemical Defence Experimental Establishment (CDEE), Porton, from 1953 to 1961, died on February 5 at the age of 77. Born on June 13, 1900, in Alberta, of his tenure of the post, Dr Perren, at that time Chairman of the Defence Research Board of Canada, wrote in high praise of Dr Perren's leadership and of the way that he, as an outsider, had run the small, close-knit community at Porton so smoothly and effectively.

He joined CDEE—then known simply as the Experimental Station and coming under the aegis of the War Office—in December 1922 as an old style junior Assistant. His early work was concerned with the dispersion of substances by explosives and the development of smoke devices, but his ability and versatility led to promotion and to his taking up a succession of diverse appointments. These included administration at the Chemical Defence Research Department (CDRD) Headquarters in London and then at Porton, the planning of field experiments and the leadership of a Chemistry Section, which took him through the Second World War to 1949, when he was appointed Assistant Director of the reorganised CDRD and Principal Scientific Officer.

Shortly before the end of the War Perren went to Germany for a few months as an acting Lieutenant-Colonel with a combined UK/US Canadian intelligence team to investigate German research on chemical warfare. His findings, especially on the development of the new-fangled nerve gases, more than justified the support given to him by the Government. The threat of chemical warfare did not materialize in the Second World War, but one factor that may well have influenced German policy was the effectiveness of the defence preparations initiated at Porton; a victory indeed for the scientists like Perren, if only a negative one.

Ted Perren had natural qualities of leadership, an easy-going manner concealed a shrewd judgment and a complete dedication to the cause of defence, which marked him out as a special man.

He was born at Strasbourg on August 19, 1886, and studied at Zurich, the Sorbonne and under Max Schilling. He made his debut at Ulm in 1909, after which he held posts in Barmen, Nuremberg, and Munich. He became one of the principal conductors at the Vienna State Opera (1925-30) and in Berlin from 1933 to 1950 at both major houses there, then again at Munich from 1950.

London knew him during the 1920s as an assistant to Bruno Walter. He appeared regularly at Covent Garden between 1925 and 1935, conducting the main works of the German repertoire, records of the Berlin and Braganza State Opera, and directed the first British performances of *Capriccio*.

Throughout his career he was active in the recording studios. He conducted numerous previous recordings of Rossini, Wagner, and Liszt, and in the LP age works by Nicolai, Lortzing, and Weber, all of whose music he interpreted with warmth and relish. He was also

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

PLANNING A NEW WAREHOUSE?
ATCOST
 STRUCTURAL FRAME
 ATCOST INDUSTRIAL DIVISION
 22 Old Road St., London W1. Tel. 01-493 0802

Americans to attend Bonn economic summit in July despite policy differences

NORWICH Dr Grünewald's statement effectively quashed speculation that the Americans would seek to cancel or postpone the summit because of differences of opinion on economic policy between Washington and Bonn. These differences were given another airing last night when Mr Michael Blumenthal, the United States Treasury Secretary, met Herr Schmidt, Dr Otto Graf Lambsdorff, his economics minister, Dr Hans Apel, the outgoing finance minister and Dr Hans Martinhoff, Dr Apel's designated successor, for two and a half hours of talks in Bonn.

Today Dr Grünewald tried to dispel the impression that Mr Blumenthal had come to Bonn to try to coerce the West German Government into doing more to stimulate economic growth, and had met insurmountable opposition.

The discussions were held between friends and allies, he said, not between opponents. The atmosphere had been cordial and cooperative and

New finance disciplines for state oil company

NEW financial disciplines are to be imposed on the British National Oil Corporation after criticism from the Public Accounts Committee of the state company's ability to draw on royalties paid by other oil companies through the National Oil Account.

Mr J. Dickson Mabon, the Minister of State for Energy, disclosed in a parliamentary answer yesterday a new concept of financing a nationalised industry by introducing government equity capital in the Corporation.

He said arrangements had been agreed between the Government and BNOC. The Corporation will consider its capital employed in the business as being divided 40-60 with the smaller sum subject to interest and the remainder regarded as equity capital on which there would be a variable rate of return.

Any money drawn by BNOC from royalties payments on oil through the National Oil Account would be regarded as equity capital until these advances, together with internally generated funds, reached 60 per cent of the total capital employed. Once this figure had been reached, new drawings on the National Oil Account would be divided between capital subject to interest and equity capital in the 40-60 ratio.

The arrangements would not prevent BNOC from continuing to raise money abroad. Already the Corporation has raised \$625m (about £415m) from 12 British and American banks to finance part of its North Sea investment programme.

Under the arrangements with BNOC there will be no payments on the equity capital until it represents 60 per cent of total capital employed.

Overall, the Government intends that the target rate of return on the equity capital should be equal or possibly higher than the cost of borrowing funds from the National Loans Fund.

Oil exploration licences in the North Sea, Cardigan Bay and the English Channel, in which BNOC will have a 51 per cent interest, were confirmed yesterday by the Department of Energy.

The companies in partnership with the state corporation in 12 blocks include British Petroleum, Union Oil, Getty Oil, Deminor, Arpet, British Sun Oil, Gulf, Conoco and several smaller companies.

Europe Court finds United Brands guilty of abusing market power

BRUSSELS, Feb 14 United Brands, the world's largest grower and supplier of bananas, was today pronounced guilty by the European Court of Justice on three counts of abuse of a dominant market position.

A fourth accusation against the company of charging unfair prices was dismissed.

Because the fourth count was not upheld, the court reduced the fine imposed by the European Commission in December 1975, from one million units of account (about £415,000) to 850,000 units. The Commission and United Brands were each ordered to pay their own costs.

The ruling, on appeal against the original Commission decision, has important implications for other multinational companies operating within the EEC because it establishes a much tighter definition of market dominance than before.

Speaking at a press conference, Mr W. J. Kijne, senior representative of United Brands in Europe, described the ruling as "of ominous significance to every competitive company trading in the EEC".

He said that on the basis of the ruling, a company would be presumed to dominate any market in which it operates by virtue of having an appreciably larger share than its next largest competitor, irrespective of the existence of active and powerful competition.

United Brands' share of the market at issue in the case, those of the Benelux countries plus Germany, Denmark and Ireland—is not more than 42 per cent, certainly much less than the norm for proceedings under Article 86 of the Rome Treaty, which forbids "abuse of a dominant position".

The court ruled, however, that dominance was not in itself assessed only in terms of market share or profitability (the company claims that profits during the five years to which the case refers were on average less than 1 per cent of turnover on the markets in question).

"An undertaking's economic strength is not measured by its profitability", the court declared. "A reduced profit margin or even losses for a time may be compatible with a dominant position, just as large profits may be compatible with a situation where there is effective competition."

The argument of the Commission and the Court appears to be that United Brands, without having a monopoly in terms of market share, can restrict effective competition through its sheer economic power, based on ownership of

Monitoring system for LME ring dealers

By Wallace Jackson
Commodities Editor

A meeting of ring dealing members of the London Metal Exchange (LME) unanimously decided yesterday to set up a monitoring system, which has been under discussion for some time.

It will call for the daily reporting of all relevant contracts on the International Commodities Clearing House (ICCH), which will process contracts overnight and report to an independent firm of accountants the amount of each member's open indebtedness to the market.

In the event of this figure exceeding a previously established limit, the independent body will report the fact to a monitoring committee—consisting of the three most senior members of the exchange available at the time—for immediate action to be taken.

It has not been announced when the system will be brought into operation.

There has been opposition from some members of the LME to suggestions that the exchange should abandon the "principal's contract" system—contracts made between one member and a number of others—adopt a clearing house system similar to that operating for the "soft" commodities such as coffee, cocoa and sugar.

However, pressure has mounted. Last year the House of Lords Select Committee on Commodities, in its report, urged that the LME should give further consideration to adopting safeguards.

The committee felt there could be cause for concern about the present system. It pointed out that a financial collapse by any firm holding a substantial amount of contracts could lead to their being dumped.

This would push prices further down and could cause embarrassment or financial failure to spread among other firms with stocks or futures contracts.

The Bank of England has also made it known, informally, that there was a case for the LME setting up a clearing house. There has also been a pro-clearing house lobby among LME members themselves.

But other members have pointed out that the present LME system of principal's contract has its safeguards. Each dealing firm has to show a net worth of at least £500,000 with a default guarantee of a further £250,000, and a £100,000 indemnity arrangement has to be made.

The LME has also had its own disciplines, and had a member firm allowed its trading to get out of line there is little doubt that this would have been spotted quickly and appropriate action taken.

Those favouring its retention argue that the system works well and allows greater flexibility than under a clearing house system.

This flexibility is particularly useful to an LME member when acting for a client who is speculating, although it is claimed that these are very much a minority and one argument against a clearing house system has been that it could lead to increased speculative activity.

It is clear that the LME's decision yesterday has been taken to go some way to meet the demand for greater security without going all the way.

Blumenthal optimism on dollar

Vogel Economics Editor

FEB 14 Blumenthal, the Secretary of the Treasury, said today that the dollar and the dollar balance were encouraging.

At a meeting in Paris aimed at reassuring Arabians, Finance was assured that there were no plans to alter dollar holdings. He noted that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) had agreed to a special drawing unit for

Mr Blumenthal said he did not go to Bonn yesterday to demand that West Germany take further stimulative action and that he was "greatly encouraged" by his meeting with Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor.

Mr Blumenthal said he discussed ways of improving further American and West German efforts to ensure orderly foreign exchange market conditions, although the United States had no plans to issue special bonds to try and soak up dollars held abroad.

He noted that there were excellent opportunities for adding to the arrangements that already exist to ensure a stable dollar-Deutschmark market.

Mr Blumenthal said that there was agreement in Paris at a

Industrial production still in the grip of recession

By Melvyn Westlake

British industry continues to show little sign of emerging from four years of deep recession. Activity in the nation's factories and workshops is still substantially below the levels of earlier this decade.

Government figures published yesterday indicated a small rise in industrial production in December, amounting to about 0.8 per cent, compared with November. But output in November has itself been revised downwards from earlier estimates.

The evidence suggests that production in the industrial sector, which accounts for about half of the nation's output of goods and services, fell at an annual rate of more than 31 per cent between the third and fourth quarters of last year, and showed only a very marginal improvement on average during 1977 compared with 1976.

For manufacturing industry alone, excluding mining, construction and utilities, the picture is even bleaker.

A 1.4 per cent rise in the output of manufacturing industry in December was insufficient

ent to prevent a drop between the third and fourth quarters which amounted, at the annual rate, to about 41 per cent.

The only bright spot is that the heavy stockpiling that occurred last year may now be slowing down. Because of the high levels of stocks that manufacturers had involuntarily built up, any increase in demand within the economy was not translated into higher output.

Manufacturers preferred to meet new orders by running down those stocks.

If this trend is coming to an end it may mean that industrial production will soon begin to reflect any rise in demand, particularly in the higher level of retail sales now appearing.

The December rise in industrial activity is officially being explained by the 10 per cent increase in motor car output, after the strikes during October and November.

Steel and chemical industries continued to be affected by the world recession and the uncompetitive price of some exports after the surge in the pound's value.

Table, page 14

Receiver called in as cash flow problems hit Chester Barrie

By Bryan Appleyard

A receiver has been called in at Chester Barrie, the high quality suit manufacturer, as a result of "cash flow problems".

Mr Philip Livesey, the receiver, of accountants Coopers & Lybrand, was called in by Midland Bank and took over the running of the company on Monday afternoon.

He plans to continue normal production and said yesterday he would be negotiating with several interested parties for the sale of the company which has plants at Crewe, Wrexham and Ellerslie and employs about 1,000 people.

Chester Barrie is 40 per cent owned by Scabal, a Belgian company, and 60 per cent by Mr Myron Ackerman, the son of the founder Mr Simon Ackerman.

Its average suit price is about £200. They are sold through outlets like House of Fraser, Austin Reed and Gieves and Hawkes.

Burton Group lost £13m last year and is now just back into "modest profit" after severely pruning its suit manufacturing operations.

Mr James Power, assistant managing director, left that company with a £50,000 payout six months ago to become chief executive of Chester Barrie.

The depression in the market, which also caused Marks & Spencer, the menswear chain, to call in a receiver recently, hit Chester Barrie in 1976 when the British market in ready-to-wear suits dropped from 6.4 million to 5.1 million. The made-to-measure market collapsed from 4.7 million suits in 1970 to under 2 million last year.

In addition 50 per cent of Barrie's suits are exported and this trade is believed to have been severely hit by the stronger pound as well as cheaper products from Sweden and Italy.



Mr Myron Ackerman.

Deficit in the balance of payments

...the deficit in the balance of payments...

Industrial production still in the grip of recession

...industrial production still in the grip of recession...

Support for CBI over pay clauses

By Malcolm Brown

Industrialists representing nearly 100 of the United Kingdom's largest companies gave firm backing to the Confederation of British Industry yesterday in its stand against the government's decision to include pay pledge clauses in all government contracts.

But it seems unlikely that the CBI will find itself in immediate confrontation with the Government after today's meeting of its grand council.

The most likely outcome of the meeting, on the basis of yesterday's talks with company leaders, is an open market for Sir John Methven, the CBI's director general to study the issue with his senior colleagues over the next three or four weeks before deciding on any specific line of action.

After Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, announced the Government's measures last week the CBI issued a tough statement saying that counter-action by the confederation could include a recommendation from the grand council that members should strike the proposed clauses from contracts.

As the supreme policy-making body of the CBI, the grand council could call for such a move today. But in light of the caution struck at yesterday's meeting of the 100 companies, a less abrasive formula is likely to emerge, leaving all options open.

There were already fears in the CBI before yesterday's meeting that the striking out of the Government's pay pledge clauses might prove a divisive action within the CBI itself since companies have varying degrees of reliance on government work.

Whatever happens at today's meeting the CBI leadership will make it clear to the Government that they believe the clauses are a legal and constitutional affront since they give the Government what amounts to a blank cheque for the future on pay policy and invest the Secretary of State for Employment with immensely wide discretion in deciding what the pay guidelines mean.

Merseyside car peace talks

Talks began yesterday in efforts to settle the two major motor industry disputes on Merseyside which have closed the Leyland Triumph plant and the Ford factory with production losses running at more than £150m worth of vehicles.

Officials of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service moved into the Ford plant at Halewood for talks with district union officials, shop stewards, and management.

In London, national officers of two unions, the transport workers and the AUEW, were meeting senior British Leyland management led by Mr Pat Lowry, the company's director of personnel and administration, on the stoppage at Speke. Both unions have now declared this strike official.

Sterling rise blunts exporters' edge

Continued from page 1

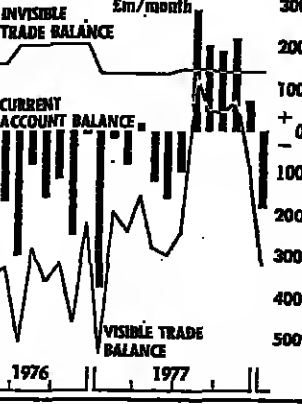
which it gained during the early part of 1977.

Why this occurred is likely to be the source of intense debate in and outside Whitehall in the coming months. Opponents of the Government's decision to allow sterling to rise will argue that the Treasury's own estimates of British exports have been driven up in price to the point where they are no more competitive than they were before sterling fell.

Exporters have certainly been putting their prices up sharply. There was another 1 per cent rise in the unit value index for exports, which combined with a 1 per cent fall in the unit value index for imports to give a 2 per cent rise in the terms of trade index. Against this argument is the fact that traditionally the effects on the volume of exports from upward movement in a currency take longer to work their way through than would be the case if sterling's appreciation was the cause.

The uncomfortable conclusion of this theory would be that there is worse to come as the effects of sterling's climb become more fully felt.

What is not clear is why exporters do not seem to be taking the short-lived advantage in value terms which usually accrues from revaluation. This is known as the "inverted-J-curve" and happens because exporters are on receiving orders for each item they sell before the volume of their sales starts to fall.



Fifth Leyland executive to leave company

By Clifford Webb

Another British Leyland executive has resigned and is leaving the company at the end of this month. The departure of Mr Michael Pybus, head of the profitable Land Rover Range Rover division, means that five senior men have now resigned since Mr Michael Edwards became group chairman three and a half months ago.

Mr Pybus, a 38-year-old former Ford and Chrysler executive, joined Leyland in 1970. Just over a year ago, he was appointed to run the Land Rover-Range Rover division.

He will join Chrysler's Parts office as comptroller of Chrysler Europe, where he will report to a former Chrysler colleague, Mr Joe Daly, finance director of Chrysler Europe.

This move is surprising because Mr Edwards recently announced that a separate subsidiary company, Land Rover Ltd, was being formed and would be given top priority to increase divisional production of Leyland's much sought-after four-wheel drive vehicles.

Mr Pybus was not available for comment last night, but colleagues said that while his resignation was not directly related to the new reorganization plans, he had become unsettled by the continuing problems besetting Leyland.

The deciding factor was believed to be a salary offer "he could not refuse".

Mr Alex Park, the former BL chief executive, who resigned in December, has joined Loughor, Mr Keith Hopkins, who resigned last month as sales and marketing director of Leyland Cars, is believed to be forming a management and public relations consultancy.

Business Diary, page 15

IMPORTANT NOTICE

ELECTION OF ONE SPECIAL MEMBER AND FOUR REGIONAL MEMBERS TO THE MILK MARKETING BOARD - 1978

The Milk Marketing Board hereby announces as follows:

- The Board has determined the retirement date for 1978 as midnight on Thursday, 20 July 1978.
- One Special Member of the Board and one Regional Member for each of the Northern, West-Midland, North Wales and Far-Western Regions have to be elected.
- The Board are prepared to receive nominations of candidates for these elections.
- Such nominations must be received by the Board at the Board's offices at Thames Ditton, Surrey, not later than 6 pm on Tuesday, 11 April 1978.
- Every person so nominated as a candidate for election as a Special or Regional Member of the Board must provide a written notice to that effect provided it is delivered at the offices of the Board at Thames Ditton, Surrey, not later than 6 pm on Friday, 14 April 1978.
- Any election literature issued by or on behalf of a candidate should bear the name and address of the person issuing it and the name of the candidate on whose behalf it is issued.

NOTE: Candidates in the Special Member election of which notice is given on this page may be interested to know that the Board have agreed to offer each properly nominated candidate (if more than one) the opportunity for a 1,000-word election address, prepared by the candidate and reproduced by the Board, to be distributed with the voting papers to all producers at a cost to each candidate of £500.

Candidates who wish to avail themselves of this service must submit copy to the Secretary of the Board at Thames Ditton, Surrey, so that it and the fee of £500 are received by him not later than Tuesday, 18 April 1978. If advance notice of an intention to make use of this service can be given it will be administratively most helpful.

The Board will, on request, continue to provide candidates for any of the elections of which notice is given on this page with copies of the entries appearing on the Board's Register of Producers, or any part thereof, at a fee of £1-50 per 1,000 entries copied.

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
Oil Brent 8p to 106p Maribale Con 8p to 90p Baku 8p to 85p North Sea, C. Grp 3p to 41p Metals Bixby, J. 9p to 220p RMC 12p to 78p Decca 15p to 425p GEC 10p to 254p Haggs, J. 7p to 103p Kwik Save 4p to 86p Manx Liners 15p to 240p Mxconcrete 8p to 54p Rael 8p to 205p Reckitt & Colman 12p to 420p Equities SDR-E was 0.527131 Sterling lost 40pts to \$1.9560. The effective exchange rate index was at 66.0.	Oil Rustenburg 7p to 94p Viakfontein 3p to 54p Metals Reed Int 5p to 102p RMC 7p to 112p Streeters 2p to 31p Thornt 10p to 354p Trust House Forte 8p to 185p Tube Invest 10p to 372p Unilever 2p to 490p United Dom Tst 2p to 43p Westland 12p to 264p Equities Gold gained \$0.25 an ounce to \$177.125. SDR-E was 1.21650 on Tuesday, while SDR-E was 0.527131. Commodities: Reuters' index was at 1402.5 (previous 1405.5). Reports, pages 16 and 17

The Times index: 195.26 - 2.96
 The FT index: 459.7 - 10.2

THE POUND

Bank	Bank
Australia 30.50 Austria 30.50 Belgium 65.50 Canada 11.21 Denmark 11.42 Finland 9.60 France 9.63 Germany 4.23 Greece 73.00 Hong Kong 9.20 Italy 1.745.00 Japan 490.00 Netherlands 4.52 Norway 10.81 Sweden 39.00 Switzerland 3.90 US \$ 2.00 Yugoslavia 39.75	Bank buys sells 28.50 31.15 62.50 11.02 11.02 8.25 9.28 4.01 69.50 8.75 1,670.00 465.00 4.30 10.45 36.00 3.68 1.94 37.50

On other pages

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Public spending cuts 'cost 500,000 jobs'

By Melvyn Westlake

Failure by Government departments and other public bodies to spend as much as was planned during the past and current financial years has probably cost half a million jobs.

This is the estimate sired in a research paper written by Mr John Hughes, director of the Trade Union Research Unit, Ruskin College, Oxford.

The paper, which is circulated to the unit's 40 associated trade unions, was produced as part of the regular flow of documents emanating from the research unit.

Mr Hughes, who is also a deputy chairman of the Price Commission, calculates the "shortfall" on programmes at about 2 per cent of the nation's gross domestic product in both

1976-77 and in 1977-78, the financial year which ends at the beginning of April.

In round terms this is estimated to lead to something like 400,000 fewer people in employment by last winter; with the downward "multiplier" effects increasing this figure to more than 500,000 by the present winter.

In terms of registered jobless this might be translated into at least a third of a million additional people unemployed by now, according to Mr Hughes's arithmetic.

Such calculations seem certain to be seized upon by the many critics of the Treasury's expenditure control and monitoring mechanisms, including the fairly new system of imposing cash limits on departmental spending.

Mr Hughes says he expects charges that his figures are exaggerated, arguing that if

there had been no public sector underpinning the economy would most likely have grown by 2½ to 3 per cent in both 1976 and 1977, instead of the 1 per cent or less which actually occurred.

As the author emphasizes, his estimates of jobs lost take no account of the depressive effects on the economy of the Government's announced cuts in spending programmes.

If these are also taken into account the final outcome of public spending in 1977-78 is seen as probably showing a fall of 8 per cent or more from the original expenditure programme.

This is equivalent to lowering gross domestic product in 1977-78 by over 3 per cent, probably nearer 4 per cent, below what it otherwise would have been even without allowing for the "multiplier" effects.

As far as lost jobs are con-

cerned, the total comes out still higher, probably bringing the total of registered unemployment, as a result of both announced spending cuts and under-spending, to between 400,000 and 500,000.

Mr Hughes's bleak assessment of the consequences of what has been happening to Government spending and in particular the Expenditure White Paper published last month, is broadly similar to the analysis of some other economists.

But his attempt to quantify the actual cost in terms of jobs is one of the first to be brought to a wide audience.

He notes that the under-spending has been even more significant than the actual "cuts" in reducing levels of public spending in both 1976-77 and 1977-78, in spite of the agonizing that took place in the Cabinet in arriving at the cuts themselves.



Mr John Hughes: Expects charges of exaggeration.

BIM states objections to disclosures

The British Institute of Management has told the Government that it is opposed to new legislation on the disclosure of company information. Its opposition is spelled out by Mr Roy Close, director general of the institute, in a memorandum to Mr Dell, the Secretary of State for Trade.

After a survey among BIM members to gauge their response to the Green Paper, *The Future of Company Reports*, Mr Close says in his submission:

"First and most important, their responses have reinforced our misgivings over the wisdom of legislation on disclosures at this time, though they reaffirm their recognition of the need to develop the flow of meaningful information."

Managers' main worry appears to be centred on confidentiality.

"This is referred to in the Green Paper," the memorandum says, "but it is felt that the potential damage to a company of the premature disclosure of its future plans—particularly where research and development is concerned—has not been properly realized."

Morgan Guaranty heads creditors seeking auction sale Atlanta property project faces threat of foreclosure on \$80m construction loans

Washington, Feb 14.—The Omni Centre in Atlanta, Georgia, whose owners include Mr David Rockefeller, Mr Stavros Niarchos and about 30 other wealthy individuals, is to face financial difficulties.

The major creditors of what is one of the largest property developments in the southern half of the United States have announced that they intend to foreclose on \$80m (£40m) of construction loans and sell the Omni complex by auction on March 7.

Mr Stephen Brown, the chief operating executive of the 51-acre offices, shops and hotels in the heart of Atlanta, said today that the decision by the major creditors, led by the Morgan Guaranty Trust Co, has come as a total surprise.

Mr Brown said that there had been intense negotiations between creditors to the \$100m project over the restructuring of Omni's outstanding debt. There was a dispute with the creditors over loan repayments and this latest action placed great pressure on all parties to reach an agreement on the

project's long-term financing.

He said he had not yet had time to obtain a reaction to the foreclosure from Omni's individual backers and had not thought there was more than "one chance in a hundred" that the banks would foreclose.

Indeed, he asserted, the project was doing very well, with its hotel enjoying a 90 per cent occupancy rate and with 80 per cent of the centre's shops and 70 per cent of its offices leased.

The prime backers of the venture are Mr Maurice Alpert and Mr Tom Cousins, two leading property developers in the South, who were the support of Mr Rockefeller and Mr Niarchos and the Ford Foundation, as well as other individuals, to back what they believed would be a profitable centre of Atlanta.

The project was seen as a forerunner to other ventures in the ailing centres of big United States cities. Another such scheme was opened in Miami last year.

The chief creditors to the

project, who have advanced more than \$77m to Omni, are Morgan Guaranty, Continental Illinois, Citibank, First National Bank of Chicago, the First National Bank of Atlanta and the Ford Foundation.

The subordinated creditors, with about \$14m outstanding to Omni, are First National of Chicago, a Ford Foundation subsidiary and the International City Corporation.

International City Corporation, which is owned by Mr Alpert and Mr Cousins, and about 30 other investors, including Mr Rockefeller and Mr Niarchos, created Omni International to run the Atlanta centre. It is a magnificent development, a skating rink at the heart of its shopping arcades, office towers and hotel, with a big sports stadium and exhibition hall adjoining it.

The centre has incurred heavy costs, but its returns have not been as good as the chief creditors expected.

Frank Vogl

Healey help on factory allowances

By Malcolm Brown

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is to include a provision in the next Budget which will enable industrialists paying a premium for a long lease of an advance factory to claim industrial buildings allowance against this expenditure.

Mr Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary in the Treasury, said in the House of Commons yesterday that under present law an industrialist acquiring an interest in an industrial building and generally eligible for the allowance in respect of his capital expenditure only if the construction costs of the factory were incurred by someone who previously held that same interest.

"The interest in a factory which carries with it entitlement to industrial buildings allowances is known as 'the relevant interest'."

Public authorities which constructed advance factories usually held the freehold—very long lease of the land on which they built and it was this interest which an industrialist must acquire to qualify for industrial buildings allowances.

As part of the Government's policy to retain development and to encourage industrialists to acquire a lease of more than 99 years on publicly owned land.

Consequently, under present law, they could not qualify for industrial buildings allowances in respect of any premium paid.

The Chancellor, in the forthcoming Finance Bill, intended to include a provision to remedy this anomaly, Mr Barnett said.

It would modify the industrial buildings allowance rules by enabling an industrialist who paid a capital sum for the grant of a lease of more than 50 years of an industrial building to elect jointly with the holder of the "relevant interest" in the industrial building for the new leasehold interest to be regarded as the "relevant interest" from the date on which it took effect.

The holder of the original "relevant interest" in the factory would then be treated as though he had sold it for the capital sum paid and the granting of the new lease.

The industrialist holding the new lease would be entitled to industrial buildings allowances as though the capital sum he had paid had been for the acquisition of the original "relevant interest" in the factory.

The Chancellor will propose that the right to make such an election should apply not only to advance factories, but whenever a lease of more than 50 years taking effect after yesterday's grant of the "relevant interest" in an industrial building.

TRADE VOLUMES AND TERMS OF TRADE

The following are the unit volume index numbers for visible trade, seasonally adjusted, and terms of trade index, seasonally adjusted, issued by the Department of Trade yesterday:

	1975=100	Terms of Trade
Exports	Imports	Index
1975	100.0	100.0
1977	109.9	107.0
1976	108.2	100.3
Q1	109.9	106.0
Q2	109.9	106.0
Q3	110.0	106.3
Q4	113.5	107.3
1977	115.7	108.5
Q1	117.9	108.8
Q2	124.2	106.4
Q3	117.9	102.7
1977	123.4	101.3
Q1	125.9	107.5
Q2	119.8	101.4
Q3	115.7	102.7
Q4	118.5	108.4
1978	112.7	114.4

p=provisional
export unit value index as a percentage of the import unit value index.

UK TRADE

The following are the December trade figures seasonally adjusted and corrected on a basis of seasonal fluctuations with allowance for known recording errors:

	Exports	Imports	Visible Balance
£m	£m	£m	£m
1975	25,416	26,997	-3,571
1977	32,174	32,821	-1,657
1977	32,174	32,821	-1,657
Q1	8,065	8,778	-723
Q2	8,423	8,467	-44
Q3	8,229	8,231	-2
1976	2,448	2,682	-234
Q1	2,478	2,625	-147
Q2	2,437	2,625	-188
Q3	2,478	2,625	-147
Q4	2,478	2,625	-147
1977	2,478	2,625	-147
Q1	2,478	2,625	-147
Q2	2,478	2,625	-147
Q3	2,478	2,625	-147
Q4	2,478	2,625	-147
1978	2,478	2,625	-147

* New basis of recording.

Swiss aim for bigger slice of electronic watch market



Mr Pierre Renggli: 60 per cent rise in exports last year.

Swiss watchmakers achieved a 60 per cent rise in exports of quartz electronic watches last year, in their fight to win a bigger share of this growing market.

But there is more rationalization to come within the Swiss industry which, although now dominated by two major groups, still consists of some 500 companies.

This was admitted in London yesterday by Mr Pierre Renggli, chairman of the Société Générale de l'Horlogerie Suisse SA (ASUAG), the largest group, whose subsidiary, Ebauche SA, is still the world's biggest watch component and movement manufacturer.

But he believed the Swiss watchmaking workforce, which in 10 years has declined by nearly a third to some 50,000

people, might continue at that level or be scaled down.

Mr Renggli, who put research and development spending alone at £10m a year, with many millions more spent in bringing in automation processes, claimed that the Swiss had parity in electronic technology, and had established a lead in some areas.

He believed that the world recession in watch sales bottomed out in the autumn of 1976 and there would now be a recovery. Last year Swiss exports of watches and movements rose by 5.2 per cent but that leaves them with just under half the total world watch exports compared with the two-thirds they once enjoyed.

Less than 10 per cent of Swiss exports last year consisted of electronic watches—some 4.3

million units—with just under half a million sold in Britain.

Within four or five years Mr Renggli expected up to 30 per cent of Swiss exports to be of electronic units most of them likely to be quartz analog watches—fully electronic but having a traditional watch face.

He forecast that within five years the world market could be split three ways, with mechanical watches—currently accounting for 84 per cent of world sales—taking only a third of the market. The rest would be electronic, shared equally between analog and digital types.

Among the digital electronic watches he expected the decline in LED (light emitting diode) units to continue until these held only 30 per cent of the digital market. LED watches bring up the digital read-out of the time.

Business appointments

Mr R Somerville becomes Turner & Newall director

Mr R. D. N. Somerville, deputy chairman and joint managing director of Turner & Newall, has been made a director of the company.

Mr Colin Stapleton becomes deputy chief executive of Ever Ready Limited.

Mr K. P. Legg has been made non-executive vice-chairman and Mr C. D. Jones managing director of the company.

Mr John Rodden becomes chief executive of Bayer UK's marketing services and publicity division.

Mr Ray Kaufman takes over as chief executive of the rubber division.

Mr W. T. A. Farmer, Mr P. J. Peggs and Mr B. J. Hodgson have become directors of Bovis Construction.

Mr G. T. Checkers has joined the board of Hawker Siddeley Dynamics Engineering.

Mr C. S. Mullis becomes a director of Crompton Parkinson Instruments.

Mr P. G. Pollock is made a director of Hawker Siddeley Power Transformer.

Mr M. E. Watkins, finance director of R. A. Lister Power Plant, has been made a director of Brush Power Equipment.

Mr C. J. Yarrow has been made a director of Electric Construction (Wolverhampton).

Mr M. G. Dodson has been made a director of Permuto-Baby.

Mr Joseph Moon is to succeed Mr Frank Storer as director of the Engineering Industry Training Board.

Mr Metcalfe retires to June.

Mr Metcalfe retires to June.

appointed industrial relations director.

Mr A. L. McNelly has joined the board of Allied Investments.

Mr Colin Stapleton becomes deputy chief executive of Ever Ready Limited.

Mr K. P. Legg has been made non-executive vice-chairman and Mr C. D. Jones managing director of the company.

Mr John Rodden becomes chief executive of Bayer UK's marketing services and publicity division.

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Mr Metcalfe retires to June.

TUC opposes investment of N Sea oil money abroad

By Malcolm Brown

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, told City bankers last night that the TUC was sceptical of the view that the main priorities for the use of North Sea oil revenues should be more overseas investment and the simple repayment of foreign debts.

Addressing the Institute of Bankers, he said: "For such a policy to be accomplished Britain would have to run a large balance of payments surplus, and we do not believe that that would be either compatible with a return to full employment in Britain or our role as a financial and trading partner."

There would have to be a large reduction in government borrowing, which would mean tax increases or public expenditure cuts, or both. This was

not compatible with faster economic growth or a fairer society.

"Moreover, there would have to be a wide-scale relaxation of exchange controls, and we do not believe that this would meet the test of building up Britain's manufacturing industry."

"We have the argument that overseas investments, indeed the export of capital generally, is necessary to reduce the upward pressure on the exchange rate. It is by no means axiomatic that a fall in the exchange rate increases export competitiveness."

An important study carried out for the National Economic Development Council last year had showed how this country's preoccupation with price competition had forced British goods into the lower end of the market—be it with the lowest added value.

HARDYS & HANSON'S LIMITED

LIMITED

TAKEN IN TAX
£857,711

PAID IN DIVIDENDS
£357,525

RETAINED IN BUSINESS
£395,112 *

*excluding £126,953 arising from
Extraordinary Items

Mr. W. G. Hanson (Chairman) reports

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

A competitive push for the banks

Commission investigation into charges, which is due to reach the end of March, has now its most delicate stage. Having their joint submission through nine of London clearing banks, three are now locked in talks with the Commission to iron out differences of opinion on the more substantive issues.

Emerging is that the clearers will be broadly speaking to increase transmission charges, which include payment for services which have been provided free, although they will go up by the amount needed to recoup the costs. Unwilling to appear to support such a sensitive issue, however, the Commission will demand its position in the shape of suggestions to the domestic branch banking American management consultants looking at the whole efficiency of the Commission—as well as recommending that the clearers should be openly to be competing with each

increase to £22.3m. The group's low-cost structure is meanwhile reflected in a jump of a full two points in pre-tax margins.

If progress is maintained MFI could be heading for a full-year total of close to £4m. With marketability improved by a one-for-one scrip the shares, yielding 5.3 per cent on a near four times covered dividend and offering a p/e ratio of around eight, should continue to keep the profit-takers at bay.

London Sumatra

The bid is rejected

No sooner had the McLeod Russell Rothschild Investment Trust and Sipep consortium produced its formal offer document for London Sumatra, than London Sumatra and its independent advisors Robert Fleming rejected the bid as inadequate, as had been widely expected.

A revaluation of the Malaysian estates has been completed—throwing up a substantial surplus on book value, and possibly twice the book value if the recent valuation on Harrison's Malaysian Estates is any guide. But a revaluation of the Indonesian assets is going to take some weeks yet. The consortium's bid values the Indonesian planted acreage at £70 an acre and looks much too low. A plantation deal a year ago produced a value of about £120 an acre and that in itself was a good deal for the buyer.

In addition London Sumatra claims that the profit from the Indonesian plantations before tax and depreciation in 1976 was more than the consortium is offering.

The hall is therefore back in the consortium's court and it faces no easy fight. Its 23.7 per cent holding in London Sumatra is ranged against a total of nearly 43 per cent in the Harrison's & Crossfield empire.

The consortium has a point that H&C can gain control in a few years by buying a maximum of 2 per cent a year, but that is within the rules and if Rothschild did not know it before, it has known since the Golden Hope battle the level of cross holdings in the H&C empire.

Dollar premium

On the move again

The dollar premium has been edging ahead again in the past few days and at last night's effective rate of 33.8 per cent is more than a third higher than it was just over a month ago. Yesterday's dismal trade figures can only serve to nudge it higher and to make yet more remote the prospect of its complete abandonment.

That possibility, together with the unwinding of positions by investors who had felt locked in by the 20 per cent surrender rule prior to its abandonment in late December, explained the earlier nosedive in the premium from around 40 to less than 25 per cent. The removal of the premium, though, has always posed political difficulties. As long as there is uncertainty about the balance of payments and the wider ranging prospects for the economy later this year, there is little likelihood it will be removed.

So investors are again viewing the premium as a trading counter in its own right. For the moment there are few signs that money is being committed to Wall Street in any volume. But there is a wide-spread belief that it will right to buy the United States market before too long, especially since there are growing doubts about the London market, and there has been some precautionary buying of premium currency. This has been further encouraged by the reappearance of the sterling forward discount against the dollar, a fair reflection of the market's short-term assessment of the outlook for sterling and the United Kingdom in relation to the United States.

Smoke signals from Indiana

Gary, Indiana, is a dirty sprawling American steel town on the southern tip of Lake Michigan close to the eastern boundary of Chicago. At first glance, the unmade steel company roads, piecemeal industrial development and large areas of wasteland, make no concessions to environmentalists.

But amid all that is worst in industrial planning—or lack of it—is an experiment that could make a big contribution to cleaning up the atmosphere in similar, sprawling communities. The small power station that adjoins one of the steel works is cleaning most of the sulphur from its chimney emissions and if full-scale trials of the system, it could point the way to an efficient, if expensive, method of reducing the damage caused by sulphur released from burning coal.

Scrubbing flue gases before they are released from power station chimneys is not a new concept. But the established systems required large quantities of limestone and even a small power station like the 115 megawatt unit at Gary would have produced a messy limestone sludge that would have covered 50 acres to a depth of two feet each year.

In an area like Gary it could be argued that sludge disposal would be an even greater hazard than the sulphur laden plumes from the power station stacks. Instead, the local utility, Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (NIPSCO), helped by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), looked for another solution to the problem and came up with a system pioneered by a British firm, which removes sulphur dioxide and produces it in a concentrated form.

It then took an Allied Chemical system for producing marketable sulphur from the concentrated sulphur dioxide and in 1972 ordered a \$11 million plant that was built on to the Gary plant.

Since then the cost of installing the equipment has risen to \$18m with the utility absorbing the increase. A year long, closely monitored trial, now into its fourth month and is proving the efficiency of the operation. Just over 91 per cent of the sulphur from the flue gases produced by burning coal, averaging 2.9 per cent sulphur, is removed.

Marketing the sulphur represents, at present prices, about 10 per cent of the operating costs of the system. But even taking this into account NIPSCO estimates that applying the sulphur removal process to all its plants would save \$11 million in the average domestic electricity bill by 15 per cent.

With the Carter Administration pressing for coal to be used in much greater quantities in the United States to replace oil and natural gas, and the power stations, Davy Powergas and Allied Chemical feel their process has a profitable future.

Britain has invested millions in building high chimneys for its power stations and the CEGB says that this disperses the sulphur in harmless amounts over a wide area—a claim disputed in Scandinavia. Environmental groups allege that, because of the prevailing wind, sulphur emissions from British and the rest of Europe are turning rainfall in many areas into a weak sulphuric acid solution that is damaging foliage and polluting rivers and lakes.

The British electricity authorities feel they are not entirely to blame for the sulphur problems in Scandinavia and are being supported by Norwegian research that shows regular cycles of high sulphur in rivers and lakes that started long before other parts of Europe began exporting their sulphur on the winds.

Roger Vielvoys

Taking the incomes policy course against inflation

Lord Roberthall, a former Government Economic Adviser, argues that a successful incomes policy will only be achieved through the encouragement of trade union cooperation by public opinion

From the earliest days of full employment it was recognized that the increased bargaining power of trade unions was a threat to price stability. But it was thought that everyone would be grateful for the benefits conferred and would co-operate in avoiding the dangers of the new dispensation.

Thus from 1948 onwards there was a regular succession of appeals to both sides of industry. Wages in fact rose rather faster than compatible with stable prices and the price level drifted up by 2 to 3 per cent on average; but the situation was regarded with some complacency, which found expression in Mr Macmillan's famous assertion "You've never had it so good".

The worries were felt by the monetary authorities, who saw our balance of payments threatened by costs rising faster than those of our competitors, and by those who feared the instability which usually comes from continually rising prices and who could be divided very roughly into two schools of thought.

These were the monetarists, who thought, as economic theory has taught for a very long time, that prices could not be fixed if the money supply were properly controlled. They also thought at that time that a small increase in unemployment would be enough to remedy the troubles.

On the other side were those like myself, the incomes policy advocates, who were sceptical of the view that monetary policy would work so smoothly, but feared that without some restraint wages and prices were moving towards a wage and price explosion.

These opposing views were actually urged by two Chancellors of the Exchequer, Mr Thorneycroft who was a monetarist, and Mr Selwyn Lloyd, who wanted an incomes policy. But neither stayed in office long after they tried their experiments, and the voluntary restraint of the official one until the wages freeze of 1966.

Since then their have been several attempts at a more explicit policy, notably that of Mr Heath after 1972, and the various forms of the social contract still being tried. Meanwhile, we have all learnt a good deal about the difficulties of policy, so that the question is not so much how to check inflation as whether it can be stopped at all, falling this, reduced to moderate levels.

Monetary authorities have learnt that in an inflationary world it is impossible to maintain fixed parities. The monetarists have concluded that there is no ascertainable relation between unemployment and the rate of increase of prices and now talk of the need to change expectations, which is a euphemism for forcing a government able and willing to act as they would like it to.

The supporters of incomes policy have found that the practical difficulties are much worse than they used to think and that any successes have been partial and temporary. A short period of restraint seems only to whet the appetite for ever higher demands.

The root of the difficulty lies in the fact that organized labour has become much stronger than was foreseen in the early days of full employment. Full employment made contributions but a number of other factors have been at work, such as the increased integration of the economy, which has given so much power to small groups of workers, and the change with the Labour Party, which has led to the weakening of the law where it

is seen as unfavourable to the unions, and strengthening of it when favourable.

What are the causes there is no doubt that the unions are in a very strong position. It is now very unlikely that either party when in power can do anything in the area of industrial relations generally to which the TUC is strongly opposed, without leading to a confrontation, with the only certain outcome a great deal of damage to the social and economic structure.

The choice is now between a mainly incomes based policy, which has been that of the Labour Party and will continue to be if ministers like Mr Healey get their way, or a mainly monetary policy, which seems to be favoured by the leader of the Conservative Party; and an unstable inflationary situation if the TUC policy succeeds—that of returning to what its spokesmen call free collective bargaining and full employment.

But it is necessary to see the struggle in terms of power, with the main parties advocating different policies and little prospect of a united country behind a strong government. The strength of the trade unions makes it probable that neither party can carry out its policy without provoking inflation, and thus for its continuance at rates erratic, unpredictable and damaging.

My own view is that we should continue to try for an incomes policy, as Mr Healey and those matters who support him want to do. This needs to be supported by a monetary policy, which would avoid what I now think was the greatest mistake of the early postwar years. This was our failure to manage properly the concept of full employment, so that there was a fairly consistent bias towards what I now think was never full employment.

Whatever target should have been set then, there can be no doubt that it should now be less ambitious. Structural changes in the economy have made it much less responsive to market forces, so that it is much harder to bring the unemployed and the available jobs together.

and only united in resisting anyone trying to bring them under control, especially the state.

It is hard to explain the apathy of the public. One factor is the unfortunate habit of each political party when in opposition of criticising the efforts of the government of the day, so that when it comes to power it is handicapped by its own past utterances.

Another is price control, imposed to try to get the TUC to agree to wage restraint, but which conceals from the public the effect of particular settlements on prices. It would be more instructive if prices, especially of necessities and luxuries, were increased with the utmost publicity at the same time as a new settlement of wages is announced. All this is only saying that we do not realize how dangerously we are drifting.

But we must not give up hope. Full employment was a great blessing and there is something very repugnant about not being able to find work for those who want it. We have learnt a great deal about the side-effects, once so much underrated. But it is these, and not the main objective, which we must learn to take seriously. It is a great step forward that at least some of our leaders now see that any policy must be permanent.

It is a real step, too, that the TUC does make some effort to throw its weight against groups of workers who try to breach guidelines. The movement is still intensely conservative, but it does move. What we all need to do is to make up our minds that we cannot go on for ever as we have been doing.

The essentials of an incomes policy are a norm; some mechanism to resolve claims for departures from this in exceptional circumstances; and some form of sanctions. The problem is not what we want but whether and how we can get it.

My own view is that the right line is to formalize the annual discussions between the Government, the TUC and the CBI, perhaps building on the machinery already existing in the National Economic Development Council.

There might have been hard bargaining sessions with all parties committed at least to do their best to carry out any agreement. They would start with the inflation target to make it clear that the norm was derived from this, so that a high norm was plainly seen to lead to high price increases.

There are obvious problems about any adjustment mechanism but these are overrated in comparison with those caused by continuing high and erratic inflation rates.

The real problem is that of sanctions, which must depend on public opinion, with a strong lead from the tripartite negotiators themselves. How far we have to go is shown by the criticism of the present Government's attempts to use sanctions about its own modest guidelines.

But once the procedure was on a regular footing, we would all see more plainly what the problems were, and what still needed to be done. Inflation is a national problem. Who knows, we might even see the day when all parties agreed on how it should be attacked.

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those chairman is Mr Arthur Rowe, caught profit-takers on the day with news that interim profit had doubled to £1.7m. Having down several pence in early years recovered sharply to close at 125p.

ture specialist has been on a very tack for the past two years, in the full restoration of the st year, but sellers had been their timing by the latest prominent figures showing a sharp decline in the industry's order

ever, having bucked the trend been a bad year for most furnis- now believes its unique formula will keep it moving for long the consumer spending layed.

new stores at the rate of around 1. MFI expects to increase floor-er cent this year. But underlying growth is claimed to represent ints of the 46 per cent turnover

Business Diary: Nine lives • Export or shy?

an Community's ice has just pub-parison* of liv-and social trends

iform Community and it will not e of use to busi-want to know like for possible Europe.

id Denmark are ively unionized gain, it will sur-learn, ranks only

most working industrial dis-embourg (one 1,000 employees) attacks cause more deaths in the United Kingdom and Den-mark.

uld have thought ere more likely d both or shower than any other n? Almost half still lack them it there have out-

e most likely to 1 homes—69 per do. The Luxem-e the most cars inhabitants, the devian seas, the telephones and much most wash-and refrigerators and most dis-b-

gely, the French e and the private secretary of Queen Alexandra (the widow of Edward VII). I am indebted to Peter Ibbotson, a Londoner, for the correction. He adds that even in 1910 the Post Office knew where sunny Mauritius was and the letter was delivered without delay.

are included, though, the Dutch puff well ahead, with an annual consumption of 4.4 kilos of tobacco per inhabitant.

On average wages an Italian has to work an hour to earn the price of a cinema ticket, which a Luxembourg can raise in 18 minutes. While a Londoner has to work 89 minutes to get into a football match, it takes only 30 in Copenhagen.

It takes an Italian nearly twice as long to earn enough for a car as it does a German. At the end, we learn, cancer carries off most victims in the Benelux countries, while heart attacks cause more deaths in the United Kingdom and Denmark.

*Social Indicators 1960-1975, which also covers population trends, health, education and cultural spending, is available from the Community's Office for Official Publications, Post Box 1003, Luxembourg; price £8.

The British are not quite as ignorant about Mauritius as the island's brilliant minister of tourism, Sir Harold Walter, was quoted as suggesting in yesterday's Business Diary. The letter addressed to "Mauritius, West Indies", which is still treasured in Port Louis city hall, was not the work, as Sir Harold said, of a Victorian cabinet minister, but of the private secretary of Queen Alexandra.

I am indebted to Peter Ibbotson, a Londoner, for the correction. He adds that even in 1910 the Post Office knew where sunny Mauritius was and the letter was delivered without delay.

Remember all that "Export or die" stuff of which ministers and civil servants were so full last year, the British Overseas Trade Board's Export Year?

I can now add a postscript to all that worthy endeavour having yesterday run into David Donnan, who among other things is chairman of Crest Nicholson.

This is a home construction-roboat building company which is reporting unaudited pre-tax profits for last year of £1.8m—nearly half as much again as in 1976 on turnover up by a fifth.

When I asked idly if much of this was due to exports, Donnan told me: "Yes, certainly, they're up two or three times over." But when I asked if he would be expanding on this theme in the report and accounts due next week, he replied: "Not really."

Investors, he explained, were now finding it unfashionable to back British companies which performed strongly in export markets, taking the view that such companies would catch a cold as the stronger pound made British exports more expensive.

Donne says he feels "very strongly" that this view is mistaken and argues that a good exporter will continue to export strongly and that a strong, steady pound serves to stabilize a company's import costs, as well as export prices.

Crest Nicholson's exports from the United Kingdom have more than doubled from £5m in 1976 to nearly £10.5m last year. Turnover outside the United Kingdom nearly doubled from £7m to more than £12.6m.

Leyland chairman. Williams, who moves to the NEB on April 3, is a bit of a dark horse since he has spent the past seven years away from Lucas's mainstream automotive business. Previously, however, he held various posts for a total of 15 years in the automotive sector of Lucas Electrical.

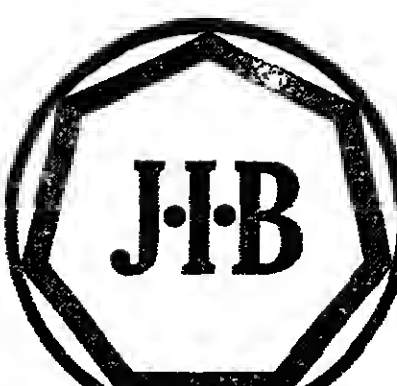
In 1966 became executive director and general manager of the starter and generator business.

He now plans a tour of Leyland plants and subsequent regular visits, but dislikes the "watch dog" tag. He told Business Diary from his Birmingham office: "It is in the interests of all of us to do what we can for Leyland, particularly those of us in the Midlands. I hope to establish a strong working relationship with the company."

Leyland employees might care to ask Williams what view he takes of a 1976 Lucas decision to reject proposals from employees for the company to make new products of "social value", such as portable kidney machines as an alternative to making redundant a third of the workforce.

As reported in Business Diary last week, these product ideas are being kept alive by a collaboration between Lucas Aerospace workers and the North East London Poly—not Lucas management.

A large sign on the derelict Emeralda warehouse building in the centre of Cardiff, last used as a discount furniture store, says in bold letters "Must go!" Quite right. The warehouse is in the redevelopment area and about to be demolished.



Extract from Accounts at 31st December, 1977

	1977	1976
Issued Capital	£800	£800
Retained Profits	10,800	10,800
Subordinated Loans	3,350	2,462
Deposits	5,249	5,872
Loans	354,289	352,480
Total Assets	191,800	216,665
Profits before Taxation	381,154	379,319
after Taxation	3,048	2,988
	1,428	1,388

Japan International Bank Limited

Shareholders
Fuji Bank Daiwa Securities
Mitsubishi Bank Nikko Securities
Sumitomo Bank Yamaichi Securities
Tokai Bank

7/8 King Street, London EC2V 8DX

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Heavy selling after trade news

A disappointing set of trade figures took the toll of both the equity and gilt-edged markets in late dealings.

With the visible deficit of £179m more than twice dealers' most bearish estimates there was an immediate defensive mark-down but in both markets there was also some strong late selling. The FT Index, 4.8 off at 3 p.m., closed 10.2 down to 459.7 and final losses on the fixed-interest side were well over £1 in many cases.

Earlier, growing apprehension over the trade news and worries over the progress of the power workers' negotiations had proved stronger influences than the likelihood of a settlement to the tanker drivers' overtime ban. Early losses in equities owed more to lack of interest than selling pressure and it was not until 3.30 p.m. that jobbers were forced to buy in any size.

Long gills opened the day in steady fashion but by noon had lost up to a quarter. They then rallied to overnight levels only to fall back again an eighth or so as the trade news approached. When it came there was an immediate mark-down of three-quarters and by the close prices were up to £125 off.

Dealers said late business at the close was reasonably two-way but in the shorter market selling was said to be "quite heavy". By 3.30 p.m. "shorts" had drifted three-eighths but after a mark-down ended up to seven-eighths of a point.

With leading industrial particularly hard hit by the late selling Glaxo slumped 9p to 555p, Unilever 8p to 490p, Beecham 8p to 327p, Fisons 3p to 360p, and ICI 4p to 350p. BAT Industries, where there has been a good deal of two-way institutional trade of late, dipped 5p to 280p but Reed

International could not consolidate the previous day's partial recovery ending five points down to 102p.

Nervousness ahead of figures due soon meant that Tube Investments had to absorb selling orders and the shares, already weak ahead of the trade figures, closed 10p lower at 372p. Elsewhere in engineers news that Aurora had raised its stake

With an eye on board changes in the near future speculators feel Cullen's Stores, the "up market" grocery chain, may well be amenable to a bid soon. The "A" shares jumped 13p to 93p on a lively demand but any further rise would mean the agreement of the board which has over 60 per cent of the equity.

to nearly 30 per cent lifted S. Osborn 3p to a close of 82p. Electricals had Thurn 10p lower to 354p and GEC 9p off at 254p in line with the market.

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but Lucas, up five pence in earlier trading, managed to hold on to its overnight 260p at the close. As predicted here H. Wigfall fell sharply after news of a rejection of Comet from a large block of the equity. The Wigfall shares closed 12p down to 264p.

Three to benefit from figures, highlighted here in recent weeks, were Crest Nicholson, up 3p to 75p, Bernard Wardle 1p to 21p and Nottingham Manufacturing at 111p.

A television programme highlighting price fixing allegations on a road building contract issues like RMC off 7p to 112p, Tarmac 2p to 134p and Wimpey which ended at 72p.

Takeover hopes in usually thin markets lifted Tex Abrasives 7p to 66p and Associated Book Publishers 4p to 187p. Brynmawr Holdings rose 1p to 55p on reported country buying but Bibby reacted 9p to 220p as profits were taken after recent strength inspired

by comment on takeover possibilities. Equity turnover on February 13 was £43.34m (13,481 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to comment on takeover possibilities.

ing to Exchange Telegraph, were Reed International, Shell, BAT Ind, BAT Dtd, ICI, Grand Metropolitan, Tube Investments, BP, Beecham, GKN, GEC, and "A", Imperial Group and Ladbroke.

ing to Exchange Telegraph, were Reed International, Shell, BAT Ind, BAT Dtd, ICI, Grand Metropolitan, Tube Investments, BP, Beecham, GKN, GEC, and "A", Imperial Group and Ladbroke.

Leisure and industrial spark Crest Nicholson

By Ray Maughan

Crest Nicholson is one of those stock market enigmas—a non-institutional stock headed by one of the market's best known company doctors, Mr. David Donme.

He feels that the composition of shareholders' interests will gradually change from its current predominantly small shareholder base and, certainly, there is enough growth in the housing, leisure and industrial divisions to warrant more big-time support.

The shares climbed 4p yesterday to 75p on the back of a pre-tax rise from £122m to £182m. The most significant impetus has come from the leisure (20 per cent of pre-tax profit) and industrial (30 per cent) divisions.

Clearly, these businesses are further potential Houseing has picked up well although its future now depends largely on the market's ability to absorb the major cost increases implicit in land price rises and labour shortages.

The balance sheet is likely to show little change to a healthy cash and gearing position. One can only applaud the group's intention of funding (on a continuing basis) small projects and labour shortages.

But, since these will be retained in the group rather than bled off eventually in the strict venture capital frame-work, it is just possible that coverage stock market fears of an agglomeration of a tag-bag mid-conglomerate entity.

These fears really should be left aside. The group's success in pricing and developing "small" winners in the last year's recent track record is only partly countered by necessary caution in the housing market.

Re-shaping and cost cutting keep B Wardle increase

By Bryan Appleyard

Bernard Wardle, the pre-tax profits by 36 per cent from £778,000 to £1,066,000 in the year to November 27. Turnover rose by 17 per cent to £18.6m.

The turnover growth was almost entirely due to price increases as there was no volume growth in the year.

The board says the improvement in profitability was the cause of reorganization and cost-cutting within the company as well as cutting back on less profitable lines.

In addition automotive and industrial customers showed willingness to pay higher prices as they restocked in hopes of a pick-up in consumer spending.

Commenting on the recent £2.6m acquisition of Armadale, a former subsidiary of Champion International with a turnover of about £10m, Mr. Derek Boothman, chairman of Wardle, said the financing arrangements had been "very favourable".

Looking ahead he said: "We face the current year placed to take advantage of even a minor upturn in direct consumer demand and relatively small improvements in volume and product mix should quickly be reflected in higher profits."

The final dividend is 1.17p gross, making a total of 1.92p. The share added a penny to 21p yesterday to yield 9.1 per cent.

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Drake & Scull takes off in first-time £2.6m

By Bryan Appleyard

Drake & Scull Holdings, in which the Government has a stake, shows pre-tax profits for the year to October 31 leaping from £879,000 to a record £2.63m.

Turnover of the group, in its most successful trading period ever, increased from £49m to £54m, pushing margins up from 1.75 to 4.8 per cent. No dividend is to be recommended on the ordinary shares for the year, but it is hoped that ordinary dividend payments may be resumed in the current year at the time of the interim figures.

Mr. Michael Abbott, chairman, says that when the full accounts are published they will show that the group, which is almost wholly engaged in the field of electrical, mechanical and environmental engineering, has also achieved a considerable improvement in liquidity.

In the meantime the group is pursuing its proceedings against Tarmac, while Tarmac has indicated it will be counter-claiming for alleged breach of warranties.

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Platform for growth set by Thermal Syndicate

By Desmond Quigley

Thermal Syndicate, which manufactures fused silica "glass", increased pre-tax profits marginally by £6,000 to £1.7m in the year ended October 31. However, after adopting Exposure Draft 19 on deferred tax, profit after taxation has increased from £864,000 to £1,45m.

Trading profits continued to be under pressure in the second half, with the full year accounting for £969,000, compared with £1.3m the year before.

Order intake at the beginning of the year was slow, but Sir John Paget, chairman, says it is now improving. Nevertheless, profits are likely to decline this year in the face of the continuing recession and strong competition in France, Germany and the United States.

Sir John comments: "In view of the relatively large number of expansion schemes currently being undertaken in the United Kingdom and Overseas, this year is likely to be one of consolidation in preparation for taking full advantage of what we expect will be the improved market opportunities in the future."

A final dividend of 5.61p a share gross is being recommended, making a total of 10.2p a share gross compared with 9.2p the previous year.

The company remains unencumbered with net cash balances of about £1.5m at the end of the last financial year.

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Bremar takes a quick turn on Clarke Nickolls

By Desmond Quigley

Bremar Holdings has made a sizeable turn on recent deals involving the takeover of Clarke Nickolls & Coombs, the property investment and development group.

Bremar announced yesterday that it had disposed of its entire holding only days after acquiring a stake in the private deal from Guinness Mahon, the merchant bank.

A spokesman for Bremar claimed last night that the shares were bought as a "medium-term investment".

The price offered was said to be a profit on the deal. Clarke Nickolls & Coombs, the property investment and development group.

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Growth slows at John Haggas

By Tony May

Disappointing results from John Haggas, the West Yorkshire-based worsted spinning group, knocked 6p from the shares to leave them at 104p.

On sales 8.5 per cent up at £10.5m, the group managed a 4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.55m for the six months to December 31.

The board says that the spinning division did not quite measure up to the exceptional profit of £764,000 made in the time last year and reported only £653,000. This was because of a spell of short-time working and the erosion of export margins. Sales in volume were slightly lower, but the value was a record £6m against £5.2m.

thanks to the greater use of more expensive raw materials, notably wool. In the circumstances the board feels that the division did well.

At the knitting division, a very poor first quarter gave way to a marked recovery in the second. On sales down from £2.5m to £1.8m, profits were dipped from £182,000 to £179,000. This company is currently installing machinery to double its fabric dyeing capacity and the board expects the benefits to accrue in the final quarter.

Both sales and profits jumped at the fur fabrics division due to the additional production from the new factory.

Overall, the group's position is improving. There have been signs in recent weeks of better retail sales which have produced a trickle of orders for the group. The board again expects profits for the full year to show an increase. A lift in consumer spending and careful monitoring of the MFA agreement could well give a boost to demand.

The directors repeat that they consider long-dated gilts to be a splendid investment at current yields and the group's investment income continues to grow. Last June its holding in gilts had a book value of £6m, and in September its market value was over £9m.

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Macpherson at £3m

By Michael Clark

A first full-year contribution of £935,000 from Uerman Holdings, helped push up pre-tax profits of Donald Macpherson, the paint and DIY group, from £2.75m to a record £3.05m for the year to October 31.

With the results slightly above market expectations of £2.9m the shares ended 3p better yesterday at 59p.

In his statement with the figures, Mr. Rex Chester, chairman, said the outlook for the United Kingdom economy during 1978 as appearing somewhat brighter with the expectation of a recovery in consumer demand, an increase in the level of activity in the building and construction industry and the

possibility of some unlift in industrial output later in the year.

Against this background his board would be disappointed if the results for the year do not show a continued increase in profits and earnings a share.

Sales last year advanced from £40.1m to £55.7m and earnings a share came out at 9.8p compared with 9.6p.

The profit contribution of the group's overseas companies showed a further solid increase of 20 per cent and represented about 25 per cent of the group's overall profits.

In the United Kingdom the general economic climate and market conditions in specific sectors created a difficult trading environment.

Wigfall's defence is backed by forecast

Backed up by its rejection of the offer from Comet Radio vision, Henry Wigfall & Sons is forecasting a profit for the year to April 1 of not less than £1.2m compared with £1.09m last year. This is expected despite a first-half loss of £253,000.

Earnings a share should be not less than 15p and the dividend

Local authority rate down to 7p

The coupon on this week's crop of rearing bonds is down from 8 pence to 7p.

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Non-Secretarial

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"Along we go"

are permitted on two previous days

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ing, vibrant colours

tures, Veronese seems to live again in the *Presentation in the Temple*, and, on a larger scale, in the *Susan and the Elders*, where Ricci's brush thrills with its bravura handling of reds.

The Continnence of Sripio. was a favourite theme of the artist, for Ricci, the Roman general suggests an Alexander who lolls back as he dismisses the kneeling maiden, his prize of war. As a gesture to his patron, he endows her with features reminiscent of a Kneller, who was then the most fashionable portrait painter active in England. In contrast with this pretty scene of noble altruism, Ricci turned to Luca Giordano in the *Rape of Dejanaira* from *Burghley House*, to create an image of frightened womanhood.

Richter left England laden with money, and travelled via Paris—where he met Watteau—to Venice to settle, his international fame assured as the greatest exponent of the Italian High Renaissance tradition. He had had little of deep significance to communicate, but the sparkling manner in which he tackled traditional themes won him official academic respect. Always the dashing performer, he continued to attract an international clientèle until his death in 1734.

With his nephew Marco Riccl, a delightful landscapist in his own right, he participated in a scheme to commemorate the heroes of the Glorious Revolution, a scheme which early attracted the young Duke of Richmond. From Birmingham has been leant the *Allegorical Tomb of the 1st Duke of Devonshire* that for long hung at Goodwood.

Two romantically dressed young noblemen on their Grand Tour are led to the tomb of the enemy of tyranny, who was also beloved by the Arts and Sciences. The Riccis' set the tomb in a Pannini-like fantasy of Roman ruins; yet so long as the threat of the Stuarts remained, this romance had a real political significance.

This small exhibition at Colough's gives a fair and stimulating account of the later style of this prolific decorative artist, a master of the sleight of hand. Fluency and facility were the making of his success. Yet that there was something more solid and meaningful beneath these pyrotechnics is evident before the late *Last Supper* from Worcester College where assured handling and a pastel colour range strikes a deeper chord of feeling.

Gregory Martin

Diana and Endymion by Sebastiano Ricci

11 The theory that the very presence of television cameras at
demonstrations leads to more violence is disproved in Inside Story's
Behind the Front. Interviews with Front, SWP and police leaders.
Mirage is the first production from Granada's drama-documentary
unit (if you discount World in Action). Worth watching.
12 Sean McCarthy has managed to cram almost every known family
problem into a mere 50 minutes of The Turkey Who Lives on the F
No wonder his hero takes to the bottle.—I.R.R.

Open University:
Reading 7.05,
ctor Spaces, 7.50-
nology for Teachers,
0.15, You and
1.30 pm, Schools
s, 1.00, Pebble Mill
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1.00, *Champs Castle*. 12.10 pm
12.15, *Cliff*. 1.30, *Souls of*
1.40, *Prison*. 1.50, *News*. 1.20,
1.20, *Help*. 1.30, *Crown Court*. 2.00,
After Noon. 2.25, *Madefield*.
2.30, *Prison*. 2.40, *Prison*. 2.50,
3.50, *Couples*. 4.00, *Michael*
Benrine. 4.45, *Post*. 5.05, *Emmerdale Farm*.
5.10, *News*. 5.15, *Thames*.
6.30 *Crossroads*.
7.00 *This Is Your Life*.
7.30 *Coronation Street*.
8.00 *Children's Children Got*
Rumination.
9.00 *Mirage*.
9.00 *News*.
10.00 *A Prime Minister on*
Prime Moisture.
10.30 *Bless This House*.
11.30 *Snooker: England v Nany*
12.15 *Night Gallery*.
12.20 *Close: Christopher*
Cazenove reads poems

Radio

1.00 am. News, Cricket, Test Summary, Ray Moore? 7.00. 1.15 am. News, 7.30. 1.30 am. News. 11.31, Paul Buroett, 2.00. 2.00 am. News. 2.30, Young Blackburn, 4.31, Dave Lee Travis, 7.00, Sing Something New, 12.00, Listen to the Sea, 3.00, 3.45, Semprini? 9.02. 3.50, Sport, 7.4. 5.55, Sport, 7.50. 6.02, John Peel? 12.00, News, 6.55 Stereo.

6.55 am. As Radio 1. 7.32, Cricket, close of play. 7.33, Frigate Woman? 10.02, Jimmy Young? 12.15. Waggoners? 12.20, 12.25, 12.30, 12.35, 12.40, 12.45, 12.50, David Hamilton? 4.30. 4.30, Waggoners, Walk, 4.47, John Dunn? 6.45, Sport, 7.02, As Radio 1. 10.02, News, Huddines. 10.30, The Show with Ten Legs, 11.25-5.0 am, All-Night Late Show with Brian Matthew.

5.55 am. News. 7.05, Mozart, Beethoven? 8.00, News, Mendelssohn, Schumann, 9.00, News, 9.05, Palestrina? 9.40, Music for Organ by Buxtehude, Courcier, Ridout? 10.10, Schenberg, 10.15, 10.20, 10.25, 10.30, 10.35, 10.40, 10.45, 10.50, 10.55, 11.00, 11.05, 11.10, 11.15, 11.20, 11.25, 11.30, 11.35, 11.40, 11.45, 11.50, 11.55, 12.00, 12.05, 12.10, 12.15, 12.20, 12.25, 12.30, 12.35, 12.40, 12.45, 12.50, 12.55, 1.00, 1.05, 1.10, 1.15, 1.20, 1.25, 1.30, 1.35, 1.40, 1.45, 1.50, 1.55, 2.00, 2.05, 2.10, 2.15, 2.20, 2.25, 2.30, 2.35, 2.40, 2.45, 2.50, 2.55, 3.00, 3.05, 3.10, 3.15, 3.20, 3.25, 3.30, 3.35, 3.40, 3.45, 3.50, 3.55, 4.00, 4.05, 4.10, 4.15, 4.20, 4.25, 4.30, 4.35, 4.40, 4.45, 4.50, 4.55, 5.00, 5.05, 5.10, 5.15, 5.20, 5.25, 5.30, 5.35, 5.40, 5.45, 5.50, 5.55, 6.00, 6.05, 6.10, 6.15, 6.20, 6.25, 6.30, 6.35, 6.40, 6.45, 6.50, 6.55, 7.00, 7.05, 7.10, 7.15, 7.20, 7.25, 7.30, 7.35, 7.40, 7.45, 7.50, 7.55, 8.00, 8.05, 8.10, 8.15, 8.20, 8.25, 8.30, 8.35, 8.40, 8.45, 8.50, 8.55, 9.00, 9.05, 9.10, 9.15, 9.20, 9.25, 9.30, 9.35, 9.40, 9.45, 9.50, 9.55, 10.00, 10.05, 10.10, 10.15, 10.20, 10.25, 10.30, 10.35, 10.40, 10.45, 10.50, 10.55, 11.00, 11.05, 11.10, 11.15, 11.20, 11.25, 11.30, 11.35, 11.40, 11.45, 11.50, 11.55, 12.00, 12.05, 12.10, 12.15, 12.20, 12.25, 12.30, 12.35, 12.40, 12.45, 12.50, 12.55, 1.00, 1.05, 1.10, 1.15, 1.20, 1.25, 1.30, 1.35, 1.40, 1.45, 1.50, 1.55, 2.00, 2.05, 2.10, 2.15, 2.20, 2.25, 2.30, 2.35, 2.40, 2.45, 2.50, 2.55, 3.00, 3.05, 3.10, 3.15, 3.20, 3.25, 3.30, 3.35, 3.40, 3.45, 3.50, 3.55, 4.00, 4.05, 4.10, 4.15, 4.20, 4.25, 4.30, 4.35, 4.40, 4.45, 4.50, 4.55, 5.00, 5.05, 5.10, 5.15, 5.20, 5.25, 5.30, 5.35, 5.40, 5.45, 5.50, 5.55, 6.00, 6.05, 6.10, 6.15, 6.20, 6.25, 6.30, 6.35, 6.40, 6.45, 6.50, 6.55, 7.00, 7.05, 7.10, 7.15, 7.20, 7.25, 7.30, 7.35, 7.40, 7.45, 7.50, 7.55, 8.00, 8.05, 8.10, 8.15, 8.20, 8.25, 8.30, 8.35, 8.40, 8.45, 8.50, 8.55, 9.00, 9.05, 9.10, 9.15, 9.20, 9.25, 9.30, 9.35, 9.40, 9.45, 9.50, 9.55, 10.00, 10.05, 10.10, 10.15, 10.20, 10.25, 10.30, 10.35, 10.40, 10.45, 10.50, 10.55, 11.00, 11.05, 11.10, 11.15, 11.20, 11.25, 11.30, 11.35, 11.40, 11.45, 11.50, 11.55, 12.00, 12.05, 12.10, 12.15, 12.20, 12.25, 12.30, 12.35, 12.40, 12.45, 12.50, 12.55, 1.00, 1.05, 1.10, 1.15, 1.20, 1.25, 1.30, 1.35, 1.40, 1.45, 1.50, 1.55, 2.00, 2.05, 2.10, 2.15, 2.20, 2.25, 2.30, 2.35, 2.40, 2.45, 2.50, 2.55, 3.00, 3.05, 3.10, 3.15, 3.20, 3.25, 3.30, 3.35, 3.40, 3.45, 3.50, 3.55, 4.00, 4.05, 4.10, 4.15, 4.20, 4.25, 4.30, 4.35, 4.40, 4.45, 4.50, 4.55, 5.00, 5.05, 5.10, 5.15, 5.20, 5.25, 5.30, 5.35, 5.40, 5.45, 5.50, 5.55, 6.00, 6.05, 6.10, 6.15, 6.20, 6.25, 6.30, 6.35, 6.40, 6.45, 6.50, 6.55, 7.00, 7.05, 7.10, 7.15, 7.20, 7.25, 7.30, 7.35, 7.40, 7.45, 7.50, 7.55, 8.00, 8.05, 8.10, 8.15, 8.20, 8.25, 8.30, 8.35, 8.40, 8.45, 8.50, 8.55, 9.00, 9.05, 9.10, 9.15, 9.20, 9.25, 9.30, 9.35, 9.40, 9.45, 9.50, 9.55, 10.00, 10.05, 10.10, 10.15, 10.20, 10.25, 10.30, 10.35, 10.40, 10.45, 10.50, 10.55, 11.00, 11.05, 11.10, 11.15, 11.20, 11.25, 11.30, 11.35, 11.40, 11.45, 11.50, 11.55, 12.00, 12.05, 12.10, 12.15, 12.20, 12.25, 12.30, 12.35, 12.40, 12.45, 12.50, 12.55, 1.00, 1.05, 1.10, 1.15, 1.20, 1.25, 1.30, 1.35, 1.40, 1.45, 1.50, 1.55, 2.00, 2.05, 2.10, 2.15, 2.20, 2.25, 2.30, 2.35, 2.40, 2.45, 2.50, 2.55, 3.00, 3.05, 3.10, 3.15, 3.20, 3.25, 3.30, 3.35, 3.40, 3.45, 3.50, 3.55, 4.00, 4.05, 4.10, 4.15, 4.20, 4.25, 4.30, 4.35, 4.40, 4.45, 4.50, 4.55, 5.00, 5.05, 5.10, 5.15, 5.20, 5.25, 5.30, 5.35, 5.40, 5.45, 5.50, 5.55, 6.00, 6.05, 6.10, 6.15, 6.20, 6.25, 6.30, 6.35, 6.40, 6.45, 6.50, 6.55, 7.00, 7.05, 7.10, 7.15, 7.20, 7.25, 7.30, 7.35, 7.40, 7.45, 7.50, 7.55, 8.00, 8.05, 8.10, 8.15, 8.20, 8.25, 8.30, 8.35, 8.40, 8.45, 8.50, 8.55, 9.00, 9.05, 9.10, 9.15, 9.20, 9.25, 9.30, 9.35, 9.40, 9.45, 9.50, 9.55, 10.00, 10.05, 10.10, 10.15

For the first time a Welsh National Opera production is to receive commercial sponsorship. National Westminster Bank are to provide £15,000 towards the cost of the new *Madame Butterfly*, the first night of which is at Cardiff New Theatre on November 1.

Brian McMaster, general administrator of the Welsh National, said: "Joachim Herz, the producer, will be taking a new approach to the opera and this grant will help in providing the extra rehearsal time necessary."

Professor Herz is intendant of the Komische Oper, East Berlin. The Welsh National's production will employ a new edition of Puccini's score which Julian Smith, the company's chorus master, is preparing for Rucordi, the publishers, and will include parts of Puccini's original not previously heard in Britain.

ITV-Montreux entry
The musical production *Tommy Steele and a Show* has been chosen as the Independent Television Companies Association's entry in this year's Golden Rose of Montreux Festival. The Thames Television show was transmitted last September.

Richard O'Keefe is not entirely happy with the contemporary notion of writing plays for five or six characters on a single set, though much of the praise for his first play, *Pinch-Me-Nor*, recently at the Royal Court, is due to his mastery of the form. Comparisons with Alan Ayckbourn, the most renowned practitioner of the style, were perhaps inevitable, given the Ayckbourn-like tactics of directing—the action took place in a north London garden during England's drought of two summers ago, when London was without rain. Nonetheless, as O'Keefe admires Ayckbourn, the influence he was aware of was Chekhov.

There are other influences he will admit to, including *Pinch-Me-Nor*. Thomas Mann: "When I'm writing something long, I like to read a long novel to go with it, and the novel I read was *Death in Venice*. I was writing this play, *The Magic Mountain*, which was very discursive and long-winded in the nicest sense, and I thought, 'What happens in it? This very much affects what happens in the first half of the play. I intended it to be rather boring, to project this atmosphere of a man in a sanatorium, with people with nothing very much to do just sitting around talking, which is all everyone does in *The Magic Mountain*.'" Illustrious influences apart, O'Keefe is most proud of the five characters that play for the eight in his next, and looks forward to the day, perhaps

The first international film festival to be held in South America was a historic moment for the Indian film; it served as an international forum in which long-held misconceptions about the weird, large-size film industry were finally and firmly put to rest.

Abroad, the popular conception of Indian films has been the Bombay-made Hindi popular film, a colorful, melodramatic, polished and culturally hybrid, bred of a weird mishmash of influences as varied as Californian and Turko-Persian, its content a mixture of the fantastic and clearly over-fed movie stars who provide the dreamlike ideals of a vast audience made most of whom have not enough money to see the pictures.

A variety of historical, economic and linguistic factors have contributed to give the Bombay Hindi cinema a dominance which has tended to be perpetuated, since official organizations like the Film Finance Corporation and the Indian Motion Picture Export Corporation are themselves centred on Bombay. Outside the country we have been led to believe that any Bombay film that departed from the stereotype, or the works of the Bengali Satyajit Ray, were in some way isolated freaks of nature.

The fact is that since the arrival of talkies Indian movies have been a marvellous Babel. Films are made in over 20 regional languages, from Assamese to Dogri and Tulu. Some three-quarters of the total annual production is in regional languages; more than 60 per cent (310 out of 501 films last year) are made in the four languages of South India—Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. The focus of the various language groups has been a northern zone around Bombay, southern around Madras and eastern around Calcutta.

Thanks only to Satyajit Ray (who incidentally has just made his first Hindi feature, *The Chess Players*, shown at the London Festival), the Bengali film has become known abroad. Ray is one of three outstanding Bengali directors of the same generation. He was born in 1921, Mrinal Sen in 1923, and Ritwik Ghatak in 1924.

1924.
Ghatak died last year, sick, alcoholic and despairing. Belonging to a retrospective of his work presented in Madras revealed, in two films alone what a film-maker was lost in him. These films, *The Cloud-capped Star* and *The Soft G of the Sargam*, reflect the tragicomic, the sentimental, the allegorical respectively through the stories of a middle-class girl succumbing to the pressures of a negating, undramatic poverty, and of the often absurd adventures at two rival touring stage companies. At once isolately and humanely, Ghatak compensated for his own frustrated career through the lasting influence he had on several generations of film students at the Poona Institute. The rediscovery of this man's work, which he would alone have made the trip to Madras worth while.

The third of the Bengali trio (who are far from temperamentally united), Mirral Sen, has made 17 films in 22 years without compromising his fiery political humanism. His latest film, *Chandrabati* (1980), which makes them in the best sense international works. *The Royal Hunt* (seen at the Paris festival in November) is a beautiful, subtle and subtle about an unequal friendship between a young tribal hunter and a paternalist British administrator. The boy fails to understand the motives of a villager who murders a local revolutionary hero is rewarded while he himself must be condemned to death for burning down the village. The film is in the forest, the local user who has raped his wife.

Over a decade ago, in *Two Brothers* (1967), Seo worked in a regional language, Oriya. His latest film *A Village Story* was made in Telegu language, in Andra Pradesh (where an evident inducement was the

100,000 rupees subvention, with an additional 50,000 rupees for colour, offered by the state government). This is Sen's finest work and one of the best Indian films of the year. Prem Chand, the original author of Ray's *The Chess Players*, though, like Ray, Sen has for his own purposes altered the story.

Its theme is the anarchy of total destitution. A dreadful father and son live in parasitic idleness, robbing the village headman and giving the village druggery, and stealing without shame. The equilibrium of their grotesque contentment is disturbed when the son marries a village girl. At first the boy is torn between his father's anarchy and his wife's desire to put order into their lives. The father proves the boy's wife is for nothing and ignored, the girl dies. The two men beg money to bury her, but are bewitched by the vistas opened up by this new world. The father is so overcome by his wife's death (and he marvels at his gains while the corpse decays unheeded.

Sen creates a whole disturbing world of his own in the central dialogue, magnificently played by two actors from very different traditions—Vasudeva Rao, a 50-year veteran of the ancient Gubbi Theatre, who attributes his gifts to the divine power; and Narayan Rao, a young juvenile from the Hyderabad commercial studios—but perfectly matched here and absorbed into the fantasies of their roles.

Shyam Benegal, already known in London for his earlier films *The Seedling*, *Nishant* (*Night's End*) and *Manthan* (*The Churning*, shown in the recent London Film Festival, has also been lured to make his latest film *Kondura* in Telugu. It sets out as if to lull its audience with an easy religio-mystical story (village ne'er-do-well receives spiritual enlightenment through the intervention of ghostly old sage) but becomes, in the end, some distinctly uncomfortable debates on the nature of faith.

Beneal is generally well in his stride as a prolific and energetic film-maker. Immediately before *Kundura* he finished *Bhumika* (*The Role*), based on the life of Hansa Begum, a woman of letters whose nonconformist lifestyle Beneal sees as an early declaration for women's liberation. A significant aspect of Hansa's legacy, sidestepped by the film, was her role as a feminist. This does not permit the depiction of an alcoholist. Still Smita Patil (an actress of great range and delicacy whom Beneal discovered working as a television news reader) has the character credibility and a tragic dimension; while Beneal's brilliantly re-created atmosphere of Hindi movie in the

One truly outstanding language film was not included in the official "Indian Panorama" screenings since the selectors thought "Western audiences would not be interested". On the contrary, *Sita's Wedding* directed by Bapu (the professional name of S. Lakshminarayana, a 44-year-old journalist, cartoonist, commercial artist, illustrator and, since 1967, prolific film director) was a startling dis-

generally, the "devotional" film is a genre that is "traditionally better known in the South than in Bombay." In the South, and in Bombay, the Telugu film industry in Hyderabad and Bapu has transformed it into a film with classical music, psychologically sound performances, a highly literate script (by Venkateswara Ramana) closely integrated to the musical commentary, and truly magical special effects. "The Mark of Krishna!" "Many of the glories of Meera," "Fellini," "The Thief of Baghdad" and Fox biblicals combine in the visual splendours of a film that at the same time reverently captures both the delight and the mysticism of the Ramayana. If this film does not get a commercial showing here there's no sense in anything.

There was a very different treatment of the Ramayana from Kerala, the state which boasts the country's highest literacy—about 80 per cent. C. Aravindan's *Kanchura Sita*.

usually breathtaking though elusive in narrative, daringly depicts the divine personages as prehistoric, black-skinned tribals. Another Keralite, the popular appeal of the film *Gopakrishnan's Kodiyattam* illuminates a fast-changing rural society where the hero, a gentle, winning fool and drifter, too timid to grow to the maturity needed to face up to the challenges of life.

Kerala also has a distinctive group of Christian film-makers (many of them with Anglo-Indian roots) who have come down since the Lord knows when. Among them is the outstanding figure of John Abraham, who has made films with the looks of a tipsy way-side scoundrel, a poet and dramatist who will not countenance the idea of the prison of printed page.

Fortunately he has committed himself to film; *Donkey in a Brahmin Village* was made in the course of a three-year struggle, with pathetically little money, by a man who is not at all (shamefully) from the Film Finance Corporation. It weaves a deesse web of references—from Indian and Christian mythology as well as from the *Donkey*—into a cunning attack upon the outdated bigotry of Brahmin orthodoxy. A Brahmin professor adopts a donkey whose mother has been stoned to death by a Brahmin mob; thereafter, as he it into his house, his servant gives notice and his university protests. He takes it to his native village, but there, too, malicious elements use the animal to discredit his university. Finally the donkey desecrates the temple, and is slaughtered. On the third day, however, it rises again. Miracles are done. The animal becomes an object of worship...there are miracles and real genius in Abraham's rough-hewn shoe-grine epic.

passive, however, the most notorious activists, he to be centred on Karnataka (capital: Bangalore; language: Kannada). P. R. Reddy who made the first "new wave" Kannada film *Samskara* in 1970, has now pioneered political cinema in India. *Wild Wind*, debating the futility of political violence, was begun during the Emergency. The material was confiscated and Reddy and his family arrested. His wife Sachalata, who plays the leading role, was shortly thereafter released from 18 months' brutal solitary confinement.

The film has the look of home movies. Reddy's daughter Nandana also plays in it, as do various friends of theirs, and the low budget and acute difficulties have left their mark, while censorship requirements mute the message; but *Wild Wind* is a commendable picture in an otherwise poverty stricken Indian cinema.

Two other established Kannada directors, Girisb Karnad and Kalpana, and B. S. Rangaiah (another actor from the Gubbli Theatre who is also a prolific film music composer) and director of the prize-winning *Chandru* have collaborated on *Guthu*, which looks at the perennial theme of tensions in a developing society through the story of a village which brings his new English bride to a cow-rearing shipping village society.

Karnataka offers a bewildering wealth of emergent talent. Among the first names, Sriridhar Shivabagur's *Kapalakabara* (1963) comes to mind. It is the story of a country girl in a tormented innocence that persuades her a crisis will induce pregnancy. A 26-year-old debutant, Karnatak's first woman novelist, she has the advantage of the expertise of an old hand in the stimpid narrative of *Gotashiroddo*, another assault on Brahmin hypocrites. As a skillful writer, she has a lot to learn from the older Y. K. Prasad, deals with rural mysticism in *Rishyashringa*, a tale of demonic possession. T. S. Ramo, with less assurance than Shivabagur, takes on the contemporary story, about the effect upon a group of urban folk of isolation in a forested hill lodge, in *The Foresters' Nest*.

David Robinson

writing until, like the students in neighbouring staircases at New College, Christopher Hampton and Terry James, he became a full-time playwright.

But Ned Chaillet's achievement indicates a measure of artistic liberation that is particularly noteworthy. Not that he, at the age of 26, pays much attention to the disorder or its limitations. "I don't care about things like go to university and, in the first place, just walk, actually, that it's never really affected me very much," he says. "One of the funniest times of time it made me can one say?—contem-
porary rather than active, but certainly not passive."

Despite his play's warm critical reception at Greenwich, there is little likelihood of its appearance in the West End. "If it had been a commercial success will come when he was bad another success. So his work is now spent in the flat which he shares with his friends, Mandie and Penny, their cat, marshalling his play into characters into a eight teen seven scenes. The room in which he writes overlooks Fleetbury Park with its annual bonfires, fireworks and consequent ciruses. It appeals to sense of theatricality to look up from his work and see beautiful girl in a sequined saine, riding by his window as a white horse.

Ned Chaillet

Ned Chaillet

